



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa
U.S. House of Representatives
322 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

Four years ago, I called on the Commission to tackle the issue of affordable broadband in rural America head on. The problem back then was that the Universal Service Fund predicated support on providing voice service. This meant bundled telephone/broadband offers could get support while standalone broadband could not. The perverse result was that carriers were incented to take universal service support and offer telephone/broadband bundles (even if consumers could not afford them) while not offering standalone broadband. The business case for stand-alone broadband didn't exist for some rural telephone companies—not because consumers didn't want it, but, as you note in your letter, because our arcane rules penalized companies for offering it.

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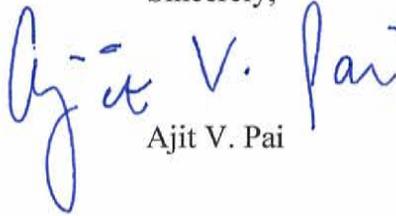
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Doug Lamborn
U.S. House of Representatives
2402 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lamborn:

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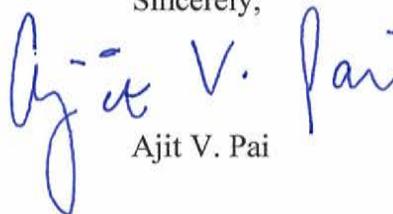
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Bob Latta
U.S. House of Representatives
2448 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Latta:

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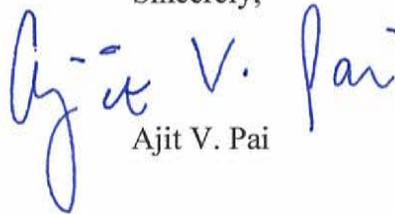
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Dave Loebsack
U.S. House of Representatives
1527 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loebsack:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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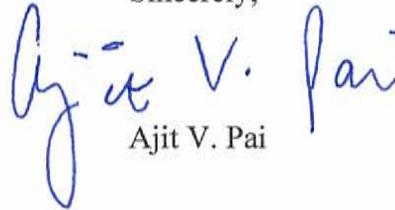
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Mia Love
U.S. House of Representatives
217 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Love:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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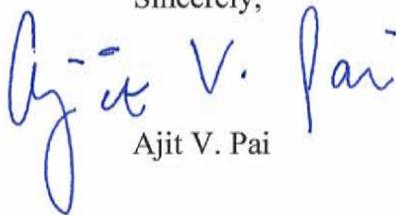
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Frank D. Lucas
U.S. House of Representatives
2405 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Lucas:

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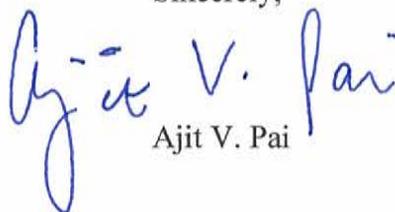
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Blaine Luetkemeyer
U.S. House of Representatives
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luetkemeyer:

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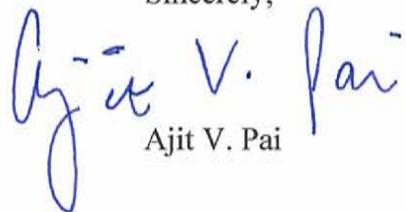
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Roger Marshall
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
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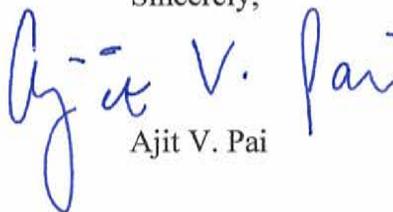
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The Honorable Michael McCaul
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2001 Rayburn House Office Building
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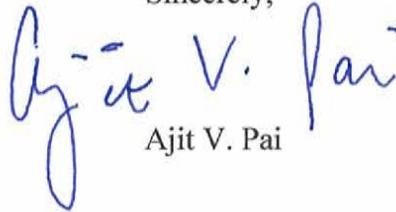
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Jim McGovern
U.S. House of Representatives
438 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McGovern:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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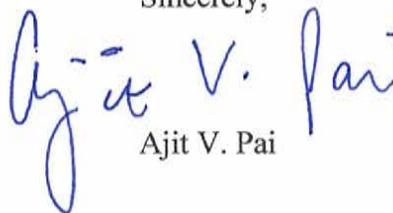
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable David B. McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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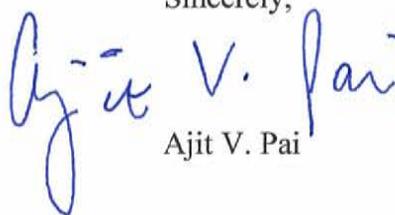
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Luke Messer
U.S. House of Representatives
1230 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Messer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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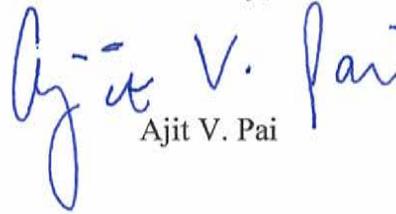
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
U.S. House of Representatives
1113 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mullin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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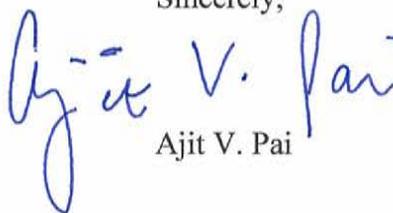
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Kristi Noem
U.S. House of Representatives
2457 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Noem:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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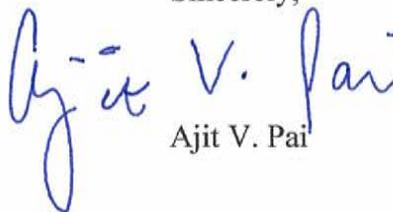
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Rick Nolan
U.S. House of Representatives
2366 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Nolan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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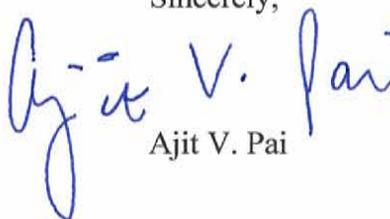
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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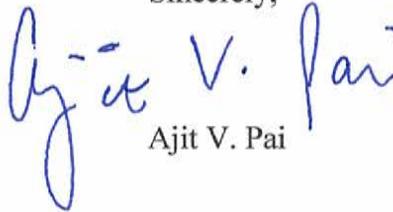
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Pete Olson
U.S. House of Representatives
2133 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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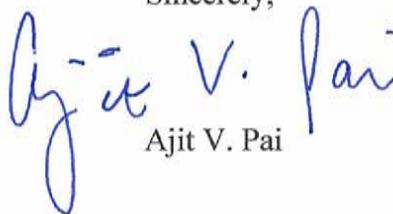
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Steve Pearce
U.S. House of Representatives
2432 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pearce:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

Four years ago, I called on the Commission to tackle the issue of affordable broadband in rural America head on. The problem back then was that the Universal Service Fund predicated support on providing voice service. This meant bundled telephone/broadband offers could get support while standalone broadband could not. The perverse result was that carriers were incented to take universal service support and offer telephone/broadband bundles (even if consumers could not afford them) while not offering standalone broadband. The business case for stand-alone broadband didn't exist for some rural telephone companies—not because consumers didn't want it, but, as you note in your letter, because our arcane rules penalized companies for offering it.

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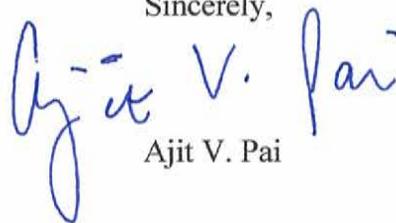
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I appreciate your views on this matter. They will be included in the record of this proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter
U.S. House of Representatives
1410 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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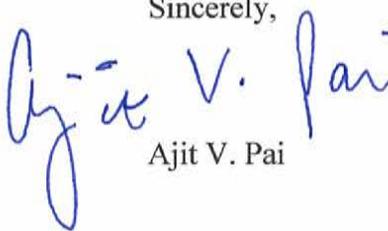
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Collin C. Peterson
U.S. House of Representatives
2204 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Peterson:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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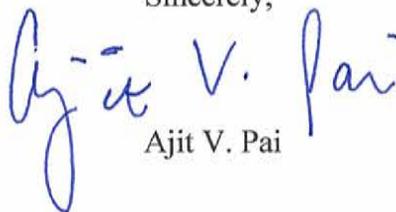
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Chellie Pingree
U.S. House of Representatives
2162 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Pingree:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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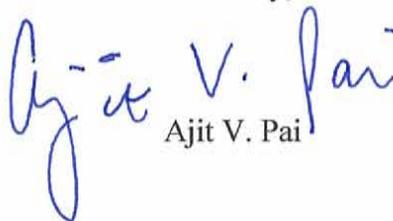
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Mark Pocan
U.S. House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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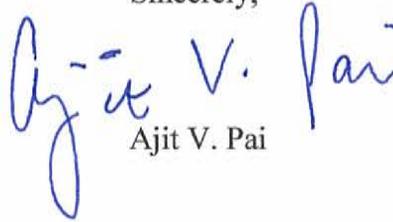
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Bruce Poliquin
U.S. House of Representatives
1208 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Poliquin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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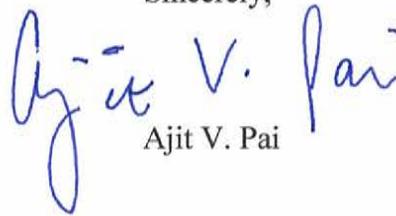
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Jared Polis
U.S. House of Representatives
1727 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Polis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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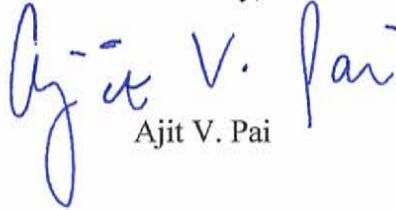
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Jamie Raskin
U.S. House of Representatives
431 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Raskin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of delivering affordable access to high-speed Internet to all Americans—including those in high-cost rural areas. As you know, I grew up in Parsons, Kansas and during my time at the Commission have traveled to locations ranging from Barrow, Alaska to Laurens, Iowa, and Carthage, Mississippi. Through these experiences and meeting with countless Americans and carriers across the country, I have seen what access to affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its schools, its libraries, and its hospitals and for those Americans struggling to stay afloat.

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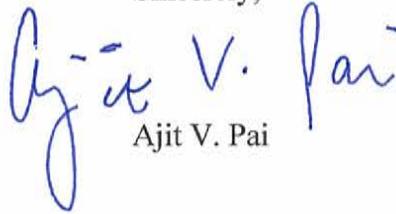
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