



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Martha Roby
U.S. House of Representatives
442 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roby:

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.

I wish I could tell you that the FCC has fixed this problem. But as your letter rightly points out, we have not. Despite the Commission's efforts in the 2016 *Rate-of-Return Reform Order*—an effort that would not have happened but for the resounding call to action from Congress as expressed in the letters you mention—I still hear from small carriers that offering stand-alone broadband would put them underwater; that the rates they have to charge exceed the rates for bundled services because of the different regulatory treatment. This is unfortunate but unsurprising. As I said at the time, the *Order* needlessly complicated our rate-of-return system and in many ways made it harder, not easier, for small providers to serve rural America.

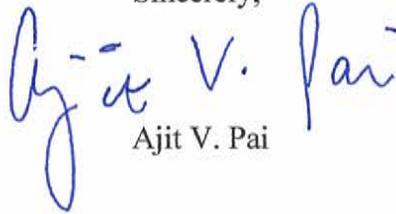
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imposed on stand-alone broadband lines. Also in May, I circulated an order to address certain duplicative reporting requirements imposed on rural providers. I look forward to continue working with my colleagues on these issues.

Although I hope these changes will help, you may be right that something more fundamental is needed. After all, if the *Order* is not carrying out its stated purpose of advancing broadband deployment in rural America, we cannot ignore that problem—for time is not on the side of rural Americans.

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 Harold Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
2406 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

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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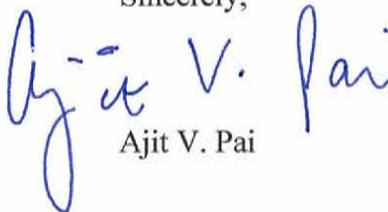
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Todd Rokita
U.S. House of Representatives
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rokita:

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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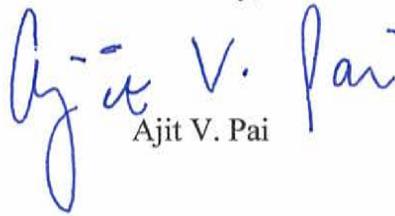
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable David Rouzer
U.S. House of Representatives
424 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rouzer:

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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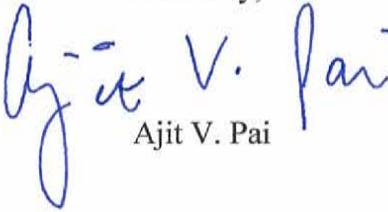
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Steve Russell
U.S. House of Representatives
128 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Russell:

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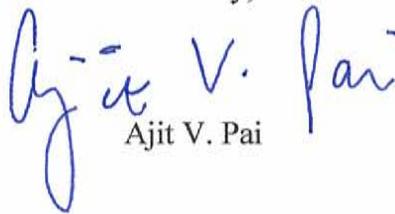
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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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July 6, 2017

The Honorable Tim Ryan
U.S. House of Representatives
1126 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ryan:

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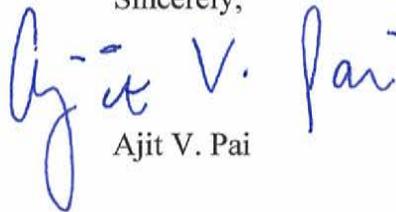
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Kurt Schrader
U.S. House of Representatives
2431 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Schrader:

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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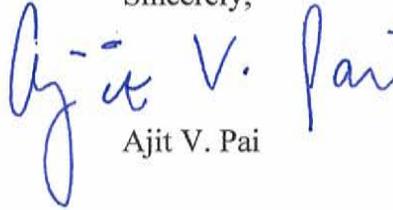
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Austin Scott
U.S. House of Representatives
2417 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Scott:

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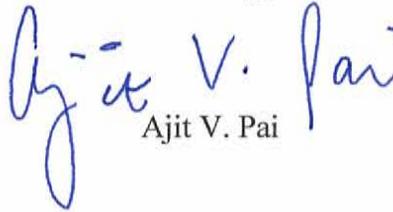
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner
U.S. House of Representatives
2449 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sensenbrenner:

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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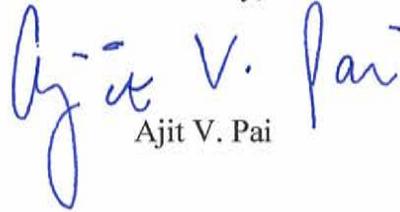
Page 2—The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Carol Shea-Porter
U.S. House of Representatives
1530 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Shea-Porter:

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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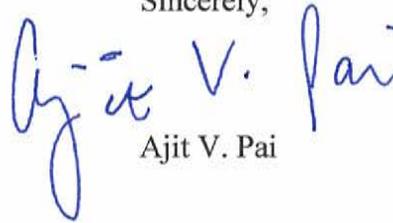
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable John Shimkus
U.S. House of Representatives
2217 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

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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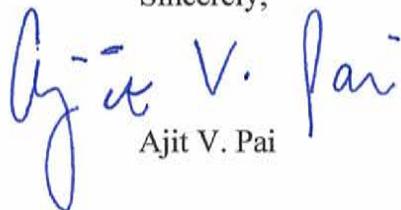
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Smith
U.S. House of Representatives
2409 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Smith:

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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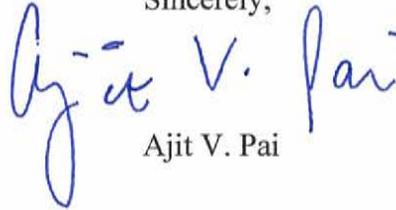
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Chris Stewart
U.S. House of Representatives
323 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stewart:

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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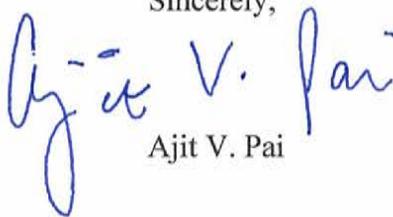
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Stivers:

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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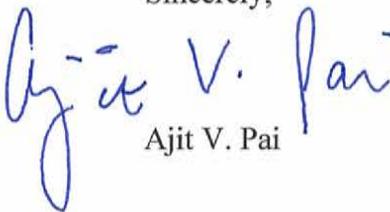
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Mac Thornberry
U.S. House of Representatives
2208 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Thornberry:

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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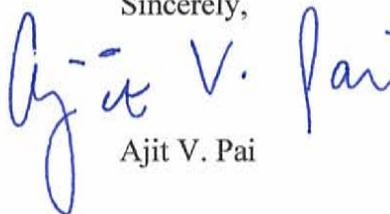
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Scott Tipton
U.S. House of Representatives
218 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tipton:

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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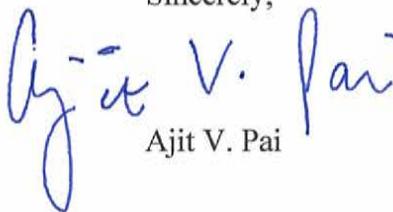
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

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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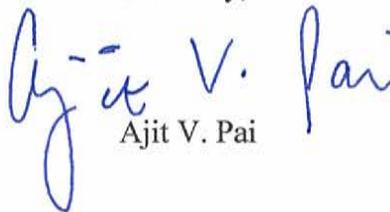
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Ann Wagner
U.S. House of Representatives
435 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Wagner:

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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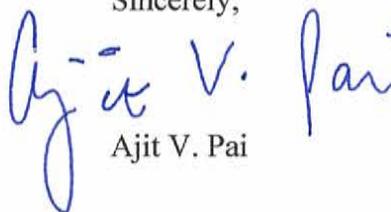
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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Jackie Walorski
U.S. House of Representatives
419 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Walorski:

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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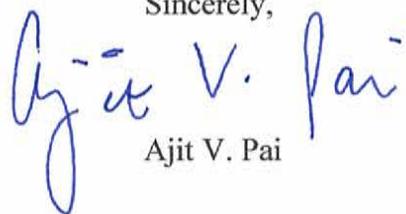
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Tim Walz
U.S. House of Representatives
2313 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Walz:

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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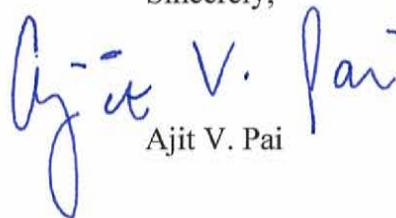
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Peter Welch
U.S. House of Representatives
2303 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Welch:

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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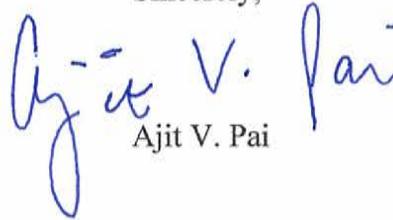
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Bruce Westerman
U.S. House of Representatives
130 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Westerman:

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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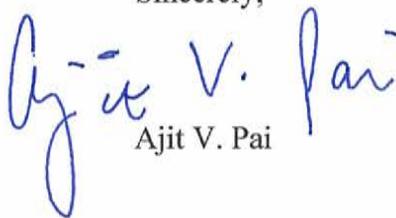
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Joe Wilson
U.S. House of Representatives
1436 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wilson:

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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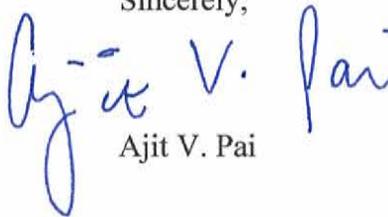
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 6, 2017

The Honorable Steve Womack
U.S. House of Representatives
2412 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Womack:

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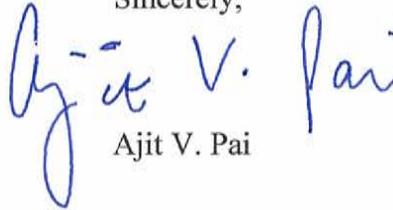
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 6, 2017

The Honorable David Young
U.S. House of Representatives
240 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

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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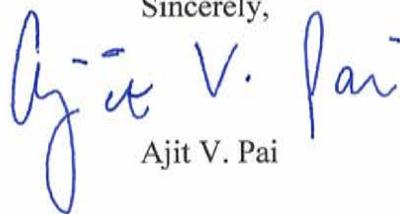
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