



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable John Thune  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

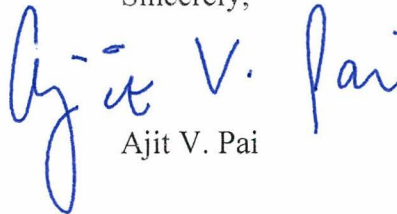
Dear Chairman Thune:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to bring more spectrum to market for commercial use in the mid-frequency bands. I appreciate your efforts to ensure U.S. leadership in deployment of next-generation services. I agree that improving broadband services yields enormous benefits to our country, and it is important for the Commission to continue to implement forward looking spectrum policies to keep pace with increasing demand and to encourage innovations and investments.

As you note, in the United States, the mid-band frequencies historically have not received as much attention as low- or high-frequency spectrum. Moreover, there has been a growing interest in mid-band spectrum from industry and others because it offers a balance of coverage and capacity that could provide a critical input in the development of next-generation wireless services. For these reasons, I have asked my colleagues at the Commission's August Open Meeting to initiate a new inquiry into opportunities for next-generation services—particularly wireless broadband services—in the spectrum range of 3.7 GHz to 24 GHz. This inquiry will be conducted in close coordination with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and will focus on exploring opportunities in the mid-band frequencies for expanded flexible use. This inquiry will also explore long-term strategies the Commission can pursue to promote expanded spectrum access to meet the growing demand.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Ajit V. Pai