



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 30, 2017

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
241 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter expressing support for the Commission's recent efforts to protect consumers from the scourge of unwanted robocalls.

Robocalls are consistently a top consumer complaint to the FCC, and protecting consumers from abusive and invasive robocalls is one of my top priorities. U.S. consumers were bombarded by an estimated 2.4 billion robocalls a month in 2016. Not only are unwanted robocalls intrusive and irritating, but they are also frequently employed to scam our most vulnerable populations, like elderly Americans, out of their hard-earned dollars. That's why I have teed up an aggressive agenda to target and eliminate unlawful robocalls.

In June, for example, we took major, unprecedented action against what appears to be the most egregious "neighbor spoofing" robocalling scheme we have ever seen—a man who apparently made 96,758,223 robocalls to Americans through several faux marketing companies he owns and manages.

In July, we sought comment on implementing authentication standards for telephone calls to further secure our telephone networks against illegal robocallers. And we also started exploring methods to ensure calls get to the right consumer, for example by creating a comprehensive reassigned numbers database.

And in August, we took another major enforcement action against an apparent mass robocaller—a man who apparently used unassigned phone numbers 21.5 million times to display inaccurate caller ID information so that he could avoid detection.

The Commission is committed to stopping illegal robocalls through increased enforcement and the development of industry solutions to prevent, detect, and filter unwanted robocalls. I appreciate your interest in this matter, and I look forward to working with you to protect consumers from the scourge of illegal robocalls. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai