

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Accelerating Wireless Broadband Deployment by Removing Barriers to Infrastructure Investment*, WT Docket No. 17-79

Vincent van Gogh, one of the most gifted painters in history, said, “great things are done by a series of small things brought together.” It’s in this vein that we adopt this *Order* as a first step in streamlining the rules for wireless infrastructure deployment.

Specifically, we exclude replacement utility poles from the burdens currently imposed by our historic preservation rules. This will help pave the way for 5G networks and services, powered as they’ll be by small cell antennas and the like attached to poles. Significantly, we provide this relief only where there the replacement utility pole won’t affect historic properties (thus rendering the review process unnecessary).

This is not a case of replacing van Gogh’s masterpiece, *Starry Night*, with the Crayola creations I make alongside my kids. It’s simply substituting in the Potato Eaters or Irises—or in our world, one pole for another. That simple change shouldn’t be accompanied by red tape.

I’d like to give special thanks to Commissioner Carr for agreeing to take the lead on the Commission’s review of wireless infrastructure issues, including this *Order*. I look forward to working with him as we move forward with additional infrastructure streamlining initiatives.

I’d also like to thank the dedicated staff who worked in this item: Deborah Broderson, Garnet Hanly, Linda Oliver, Bill Richardson, Jennifer Salhus, Dana Shaffer, David Sieradski, Janet Sievert, Jill Springer, Jeff Steinberg, Don Stockdale, Suzanne Tetreault, Chana Wilkerson, and Mary Claire York.