



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 21, 2017

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the challenges presented by space debris in low-Earth orbit (LEO), particularly with respect to potential debris resulting from new LEO satellite constellations. As you indicate, a number of these new constellations hold out the promise of connecting rural and underserved populations to the internet. Others are providing, or plan to provide, new sources of data about the Earth and its weather.

Since 2004, the FCC has worked with other federal agencies and in particular the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) to mitigate orbital debris. This engagement includes supporting other U.S. agencies as they work domestically and internationally to improve debris mitigation practices and draws heavily on technical guidance and assessment tools developed by NASA.

As we enter a new era in which hundreds or thousands of new satellites are deployed, Commission staff are also in the early stages of undertaking a review of our current rules to explore whether rule changes are needed, including changes that may be necessary in light of increasing rates of small satellite deployment and proposed large constellation deployments. The FCC will also continue to work with our federal partners to improve debris mitigation practices, and we will explore establishing an interagency working group on debris mitigation.

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".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 21, 2017

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
702 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

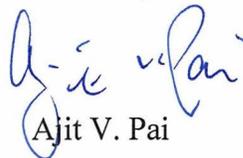
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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Senator, thanks again for flagging this issue. Look forward to working with you on this, rural health care, and many other issues!