



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1510 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cárdenas:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Media Ownership Reconsideration Order. In addressing the petitions for reconsideration of the FCC's 2016 Media Ownership Order, the Commission followed its normal process. Specifically, each petition for reconsideration was put out for public comment, and the Commission received comments supporting and opposing these petitions. As a result, any suggestion that the Commission's handling of these petitions was procedurally infirm is wholly without merit.

Turning to the merits of the Commission's decision to modify the Local Television Ownership Rule, the Reconsideration Order eliminated the requirement that at least eight independently owned television stations must remain in a market following the combination of two television stations in that market. As explained in the Reconsideration Order, this "eight-voices test" was not supported by any evidence in the record or economic literature. Moreover, eliminating this requirement will allow broadcasters, particularly in small and mid-sized markets, to realize the benefits of common ownership and better serve their local communities.

The Order also modified the prohibition against common ownership of two top-four rated stations in a local market. Specifically, it added an option for applicants to seek case-by-case review of a particular transaction in order to account for circumstances in which strict application of the Top-Four Prohibition may be unwarranted. This hybrid approach allows the Commission to ensure that application of the Top-Four prohibition is appropriate in a particular case and, importantly, does not relieve the Commission from its obligation to ensure that grant of an application proposing a top-four combination serves the public interest, convenience, and necessity pursuant to Section 310(d) of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. 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

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2058 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Media Ownership Reconsideration Order. In addressing the petitions for reconsideration of the FCC's 2016 Media Ownership Order, the Commission followed its normal process. Specifically, each petition for reconsideration was put out for public comment, and the Commission received comments supporting and opposing these petitions. As a result, any suggestion that the Commission's handling of these petitions was procedurally infirm is wholly without merit.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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THE CHAIRMAN

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Diana DeGette  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2368 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeGette:

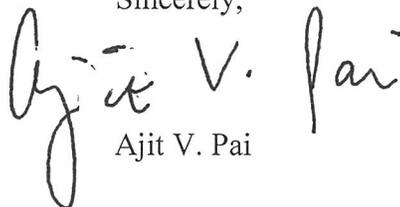
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Debbie Dingell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
116 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:

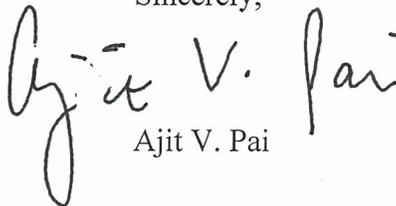
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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Mike Doyle  
U.S. House of Representatives  
239 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Media Ownership Reconsideration Order. In addressing the petitions for reconsideration of the FCC's 2016 Media Ownership Order, the Commission followed its normal process. Specifically, each petition for reconsideration was put out for public comment, and the Commission received comments supporting and opposing these petitions. As a result, any suggestion that the Commission's handling of these petitions was procedurally infirm is wholly without merit.

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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2462 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Media Ownership Reconsideration Order. In addressing the petitions for reconsideration of the FCC's 2016 Media Ownership Order, the Commission followed its normal process. Specifically, each petition for reconsideration was put out for public comment, and the Commission received comments supporting and opposing these petitions. As a result, any suggestion that the Commission's handling of these petitions was procedurally infirm is wholly without merit.

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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Joseph P. Kennedy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
434 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kennedy:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Media Ownership Reconsideration Order. In addressing the petitions for reconsideration of the FCC's 2016 Media Ownership Order, the Commission followed its normal process. Specifically, each petition for reconsideration was put out for public comment, and the Commission received comments supporting and opposing these petitions. As a result, any suggestion that the Commission's handling of these petitions was procedurally infirm is wholly without merit.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2231 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Jerry McNerney  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2265 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

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WASHINGTON

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December 19, 2017

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2188 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

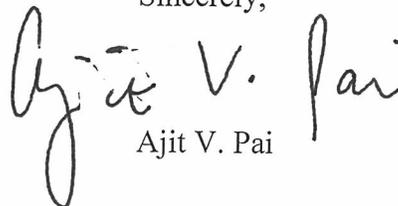
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2367 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Paul Tonko  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2463 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 19, 2017

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

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