

ERIK PAULSEN
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
3RD DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA

DEPUTY WHIP



COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH
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JOINT ECONOMIC COMMITTEE

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
WASHINGTON, D.C., 20515

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Received & Inspected
NOV 27 2017
FCC Mailroom

November 15, 2017

Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, Room 8-C453
Washington, DC 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am writing to you about the Telephone Consumer Protection Act and the statement of Commissioner Michael O'Rielly relative to the Declaratory Ruling (FCC 16-72).

Commissioner O'Rielly wrote he supports the relief provided in the Ruling which exempts most calls made by or on behalf of the federal government, including tele-town halls. He was frustrated, however, that Commission leadership left unanswered whether state or local agencies would be subject to TCPA lawsuits.

Commissioner O'Rielly was correct in writing that such arbitrary line drawing leaves state and local governments, and the people they serve, exposed to predatory TCPA lawsuits that divert tax dollars away from serving the public.

In Minnesota as well as other states, there are local governments and the citizens they serve that would benefit if such governments were exempt like the federal government is.

I urge the Commission to re-visit this ruling and exempt state and local governments from the TCPA including autodialed and prerecorded calls.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

Erik Paulsen
Member of Congress

EP/mc