



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 19, 2018

The Honorable Jennifer González-Colón  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2435 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman González-Colón:

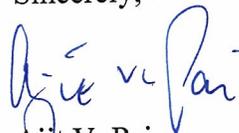
Thank you for your letter urging the Commission to permit television stations in Puerto Rico that have been reassigned to new channels in the post-incentive auction transition to move to their new channels as quickly as possible. I appreciate your interest in restoring broadcast television service to Puerto Rico residents in an efficient manner.

FCC staff has worked closely with the affected TV stations to enable them to move to their new post-incentive auction channels as part of their near-term hurricane recovery efforts. I am pleased to report that on January 11, 2018, the Commission's Incentive Auction Task Force and Media Bureau issued a Public Notice granting the requests of 20 stations in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to advance the schedule for their construction of new broadcast facilities on their post-auction channels. Specifically, the stations may begin testing on their new channels as of July 1, 2018, and will discontinue use of their pre-auction channels no later than August 1, 2018.

As you note, granting these waivers prevents wasteful duplicative construction and equipment costs for stations whose towers and equipment were devastated by the storms. Doing so also enables access by the stations to funding from the TV Broadcaster Reimbursement Fund for the portions of the recovery costs attributable to their post-incentive auction relocation. Additionally, the waiver grant will mean that over-the-air TV viewers in Puerto Rico will only need to rescan their tuners once to ensure uninterrupted viewing.

We are pleased that the Commission has been able to assist the 20 stations in their effort to restore a vital source of information and means of communication to the millions of affected viewers in Puerto Rico. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai

Enclosure

*P.S. Congresswoman, thanks for your leadership on hurricane-recovery issues! I hope to have a chance to catch up with you sometime, either here or in the Commonwealth.*