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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRMAN PAI STATEMENT ON NEW LAW TO IMPROVE RURAL
CALL QUALITY AND RELIABILITY**

Improves Standards, Increases Accountability for Call Completion in Rural America

WASHINGTON, February 27, 2018—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai issued the following statement after President Trump signed into law the Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act of 2017:

“For far too long, many rural Americans have faced a communications problem that you’d think would be a relic from a century ago: They can’t reliably receive long-distance phone calls. Some calls drop; others are never connected at all. This is unacceptable, and it’s a problem we at the FCC intend to fix.

“The Improving Rural Call Quality and Reliability Act gives the FCC another tool to tackle this problem head-on. The new law empowers the agency to oversee a significant source of rural call completion failures: so-called ‘intermediate’ carriers who carry calls between originating carriers (on the caller’s side) and terminating carriers (on the recipient’s side). The FCC now can also establish service quality standards for call completion by intermediate carriers, and the tools to hold them accountable.

“I will be working closely with my fellow commissioners to ensure that rural Americans have what every American expects: a telephone system that works.”

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