

Media Contact:

Tina Pelkey, (202) 418-0536
tina.pelkey@fcc.gov

For Immediate Release**CHAIRMAN PAI STATEMENT ON PROPOSAL TO IMPROVE THE FCC'S
ENFORCEMENT OF EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY RULES*****Proposal Marks 50th Anniversary of FCC Action Against Discrimination in Hiring***

WASHINGTON, July 3, 2018—Fifty years ago today, the Federal Communications Commission first concluded that equal opportunity in employment was essential to the public interest, and committed to ensuring that the national policy against discrimination in hiring applied to broadcast licensees.¹ To mark the 50th anniversary of this decision and to improve the Commission's enforcement of its equal employment opportunity (EEO) rules, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai this morning shared with his colleagues a proposal to shift agency staff responsible for enforcing the FCC's EEO rules from the Media Bureau to the Enforcement Bureau. Earlier this year, numerous civil rights organizations, including the Multicultural Media, Telecom and Internet Council, NAACP, National Urban League, LULAC, and Rainbow PUSH Coalition, recommended that the Commission take this step so that the Commission's EEO rules could be enforced more effectively. The following statement is from Chairman Pai:

“Fifty years ago today, the FCC ensured that our national policy against discrimination in hiring applied to broadcasters. And on this important anniversary, I'm pleased to propose another step toward ensuring equal employment opportunity in the communications industry. By deploying staff tasked with enforcing the Commission's EEO rules in the Enforcement Bureau, we'll be able to improve the FCC's enforcement of those rules and strengthen our commitment to fighting discrimination.”

Currently, a team comprised of attorneys and other professionals responsible for EEO audits and enforcement is part of the FCC's Media Bureau. The EEO audit and enforcement team does essential work overseeing the EEO compliance of television and radio broadcast licensees, as well as multichannel video programming distributors (MVPDs) and satellite radio providers. The team's work is primarily focused on periodic random audits of broadcast licensee and MVPD EEO programs, along with any necessary enforcement actions arising from those audits. The EEO team also investigates complaints and takes enforcement action based on those investigations when necessary.

Under Chairman Pai's leadership, the Commission has taken a number of steps to enhance diversity in the communications industry, including re-establishing the Diversity Advisory Committee and committing to establish an incubator program to promote diversity in the broadcast industry. To learn more about the Commission's EEO efforts, visit: <https://www.fcc.gov/general/equal-employment-opportunity-headlines#block-menu-block-4>.

¹ *Petition for Rulemaking to Require Broadcast Licensees to Show Nondiscrimination in their Employment Practices*, Memorandum Opinion and Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 13 FCC 2d 766 (July 3, 1968).

###

Office of Media Relations: (202) 418-0500
ASL Videophone: (844) 432-2275
TTY: (888) 835-5322
Twitter: @FCC
www.fcc.gov/office-media-relations

This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).