



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 26, 2018

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

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's online public inspection file. As you know, the FCC has been steadily working towards completing the transition to an online public inspection file for broadcasters and multichannel video program distributors (MVPDs). I am happy to note that March 1 was the deadline for radio stations and cable operators to fully transition to the online system.

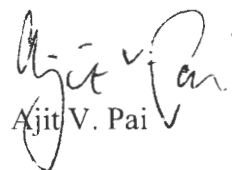
When the Commission first created the online public file system for TV broadcasters, it made the decision to provide stations some flexibility with respect to format in order to facilitate the transition to the new system. That same logic applied to the more recent conversion to the online public file system for radio stations and MVPDs.

The decision to not pursue full machine-readability at this time does not mean that the online public file is inaccessible. To the contrary, Commission staff has worked to improve the search functions within the system. The more recent changes include the introduction of new filters that can help to narrow search results for consumers. We will continue to look for ways to improve the system for its users.

The Commission voted on January 30 to seek comment on repealing the requirement that broadcast stations file paper copies of certain contracts and other documents at the FCC. And in your letter, you suggest that the Commission not move forward with changing this rule until the online public file, where these contracts are also stored, is made machine-readable. However, I am skeptical that these two issues are properly intertwined; among other things, the current online public file is much more accessible to the American public than paper copies of contracts located in the FCC's headquarters or at broadcast stations.

I appreciate your interest in this matter, and your letter will be made part of the record in this proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai