



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 13, 2018

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
United States Senate  
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

I write in response to your letter regarding the importance of protecting our communications networks. I agree with you that our nation's networks must be robust and resilient. As you know, the Department of Homeland Security's Office of Cybersecurity and Communications is the designated agency responsible for overseeing cybersecurity preparedness of the communications sector. The Commission plays a supporting role, as a partner with DHS, in identifying vulnerabilities and working with stakeholders to increase security and resiliency in communications network infrastructure.

The Commission's efforts in this area primarily operate through the Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council (CSRIC). Last year, CSRIC V recommended best practices to prevent exploitation of Signaling System 7 (SS7). The Commission encouraged carriers to adopt those best practices in August 2017. Earlier this year, we sought comment from the public, industry, and other stakeholders on the implementation of those best practices, and our staff are reviewing the responses. We hope this additional information will help inform the Commission on their use and effectiveness. You also request in your letter a copy of the CSRIC V Working Group 10 Risk Assessment Report. We welcome you or your staff to come to the Commission to review that report *in camera*.

Further, CSRIC VI released its Final Report on recommendations to mitigate security risks on the Diameter protocol in March, and continues its work on assessing the risks and recommending best practices for 5G, including those risks associated with the Internet of Things devices. I appreciate the hard work of CSRIC, which includes the participation of DHS officials.

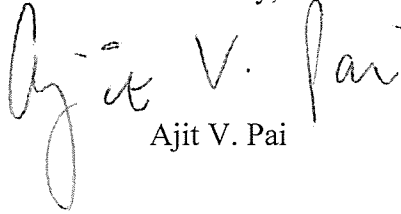
Regarding Customer Proprietary Network Information (CPNI) breaches, including SS7-specific breaches, I should note that carriers do not report this information to the FCC. Instead, as required by federal law and in line with the Commission's supporting role when it comes to cybersecurity matters, they report that information to the law enforcement agencies that may take action on it through the CPNI Breach Reporting Facility, managed by the U.S. Secret Service. For more than a decade, the Commission's rules have required electronic notification of CPNI breaches to the U.S. Secret Service and the Federal Bureau of Investigation so those entities can conduct criminal investigations as appropriate. The Commission has only indirect access to the CPNI Breach Reporting Facility and only for the purpose of ensuring compliance with our CPNI rules. If you would like additional data, you may wish to contact those agencies that oversee the

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CPNI Breach Reporting Facility. Additionally, the Commission's rules require that carriers, rather than the Commission, notify individuals of any breaches that involve their CPNI.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long tail on the "i".

Ajit V. Pai

Ajit V. Pai