



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Jerry Moran
United State Senate
521 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Moran:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans, including those in Kansas. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities, and I appreciate your recognition of our work thus far to foster broadband deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

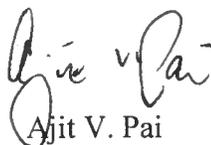
I agree with your concerns that budget limitations in the Universal Service Fund's high cost program for legacy rate-of-return providers could result in undue reductions in support for broadband deployment in Kansas. Those cuts were the legacy of the last Administration's *2016 Rate-of-Return Reform Order* (from which I dissented in part as a Commissioner).

We started to address this problem in March, when the Commission dedicated an additional \$500 million to support small, rural carriers deploying broadband to the farthest reaches of America. And I expect that we will finish our work in December. I have now circulated to my colleagues a proposed order that would reform our high-cost program for small carriers to increase its efficiency, its sufficiency, and its predictability, all while ensuring rural Americans get the high-quality services they need and deserve.

First, we're promoting efficiency by offering rate-of-return carriers opportunity to opt in to model-based support, which would give them a guaranteed revenue stream for a decade in exchange for meeting specified buildout requirements. *Second*, we're ensuring support is sufficient by offering additional funding to carriers that currently receive model-based support and who agree to meet increased buildout requirements. We're also increasing funding for carriers who do not receive model-based support. *Third*, we're making the program more predictable by setting a new long-term budget for rate-of-return carriers who choose not to opt in to model-based support and ending arbitrary funding cuts. And *fourth*, we're increasing the target speeds for subsidized deployments from 10/1 Mbps to 25/3 Mbps. Long story short, we're making the Universal Service Fund a more effective means of closing the digital divide.

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

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Hope all's well with you and your family! Really appreciate the support and your leadership on broadband for our state.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Pat Roberts
United State Senate
109 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Roberts:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans, including those in Kansas. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities, and I appreciate your recognition of our work thus far to foster broadband deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

I agree with your concerns that budget limitations in the Universal Service Fund's high cost program for legacy rate-of-return providers could result in undue reductions in support for broadband deployment in Kansas. Those cuts were the legacy of the last Administration's *2016 Rate-of-Return Reform Order* (from which I dissented in part as a Commissioner).

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

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Hope all's well with you and the family, especially the grandkids, and that we have a chance to catch up soon!



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Yoder
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yoder:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans, including those in Kansas. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities, and I appreciate your recognition of our work thus far to foster broadband deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

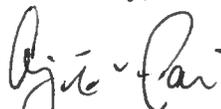
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Very much appreciate your support during my chairmanship
and admire your leadership on behalf of the 3rd District.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Lynn Jenkins
U.S. House of Representatives
1526 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Jenkins:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans, including those in Kansas. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities, and I appreciate your recognition of our work thus far to foster broadband deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

I agree with your concerns that budget limitations in the Universal Service Fund's high cost program for legacy rate-of-return providers could result in undue reductions in support for broadband deployment in Kansas. Those cuts were the legacy of the last Administration's *2016 Rate-of-Return Reform Order* (from which I dissented in part as a Commissioner).

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

Sincerely,

So grateful for your support during my time at the FCC, your hospitality during our visit to Leavenworth, and your leadership on behalf of the 2nd District!

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Roger Marshall
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Marshall:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans, including those in Kansas. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities, and I appreciate your recognition of our work thus far to foster broadband deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

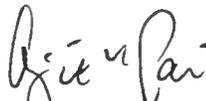
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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Thanks so much for your support! Our shared goal of better broadband for the 1st District is so important. I hope you and your family are well and look forward to catching up soon.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

November 30, 2018

The Honorable Ron Estes
U.S. House of Representatives
2452 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Estes:

Thank you for your letter on the importance of high-speed broadband access to rural Americans, including those in Kansas. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities, and I appreciate your recognition of our work thus far to foster broadband deployment in the most remote corners of our country.

I agree with your concerns that budget limitations in the Universal Service Fund's high cost program for legacy rate-of-return providers could result in undue reductions in support for broadband deployment in Kansas. Those cuts were the legacy of the last Administration's *2016 Rate-of-Return Reform Order* (from which I dissented in part as a Commissioner).

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Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Appreciate your support,
both in the 4th District (still
remember our visit to the 9/11 center in Wichita) and in Washington!
Hope all's well and look forward to catching up soon.