



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 26, 2018

The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo  
U.S. House of Representatives  
241 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

I appreciate your letter regarding the problems the Santa Clara County Fire Department had using Verizon's network as they battled the Mendocino Complex Fire. I agree that first responders' communications systems must be reliable when they need them most. And our Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau continues to work with first responders and wireless service providers to ensure that communications networks are available for emergency services both during and after a natural disaster.

As you know, Verizon's actions here did not apparently violate the Commission's *Title II Order* or the 2015 net neutrality rules—as Santa Clara County acknowledged in a recent court filing. Indeed, the *Title II Order* referred to the type of data plan Santa Clara purchased from Verizon (i.e., one where speeds are slowed after a subscriber uses a specified amount of data) as the industry norm. So I was glad to hear that Verizon offer a new plan with no speed restrictions on public safety customers in a declared emergency, even though this would mean treating some users differently from others.

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".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 26, 2018

The Honorable Edward J. Markey  
United States Senate  
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

I appreciate your letter regarding the problems the Santa Clara County Fire Department had using Verizon's network as they battled the Mendocino Complex Fire. I agree that first responders' communications systems must be reliable when they need them most. And our Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau continues to work with first responders and wireless service providers to ensure that communications networks are available for emergency services both during and after a natural disaster.

As you know, Verizon's actions here did not apparently violate the Commission's *Title II Order* or the 2015 net neutrality rules—as Santa Clara County acknowledged in a recent court filing. Indeed, the *Title II Order* referred to the type of data plan Santa Clara purchased from Verizon (i.e., one where speeds are slowed after a subscriber uses a specified amount of data) as the industry norm. So I was glad to hear that Verizon offer a new plan with no speed restrictions on public safety customers in a declared emergency, even though this would mean treating some users differently from others.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai