



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 18, 2018

The Honorable Steve Stivers
U.S. House of Representatives
1022 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

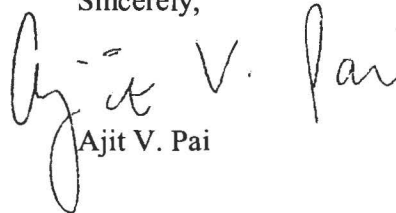
Dear Congressman Stivers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's recent 3.5 GHz band rulemaking, spearheaded by Commissioner O'Rielly. In particular, I appreciated knowing of your support for county-based license areas as a method for increasing the pool of stakeholders bidding on Priority Access Licenses (PALs) at auction.

At the Commission's October 23, 2018 Open Meeting, we adopted a Report and Order that modifies the rules governing this band to facilitate shared access between federal and non-federal use and promote greater investment in the band. To accomplish this goal, we made targeted updates to the licensing and technical rules that will encourage more efficient and intensive use of the band. Consistent with your argument that "county based PALs will meet the needs of commercial mobile wireless carriers, cable and broadband providers, and rural broadband operators," we increased the size of PAL license areas from census tracts to counties. And consistent with your argument that a term of "at least seven years allows for both the deployment of services and the establishment of performance metrics to measure the impact of these providers," we extended license terms from three to ten years with a renewal expectancy. We expect these rule changes will go a long way toward increasing investment in the band and maintaining U.S. leadership in the deployment of next-generation services, including 5G.

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