



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

January 3, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senate  
706 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

On August 28, you wrote regarding my interactions with the White House concerning the Sinclair-Tribune transaction. I am pleased to report that the Commission's independent Office of Inspector General issued a report on November 26 on this very matter. In that report, the Office wrote:

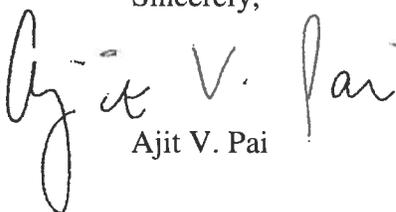
Our investigation did not reveal evidence that Chairman Pai acted improperly with respect to the request from Congress that he disclose information related to his interactions with the White House regarding the proposed merger, nor did he make material omissions at the July 25, 2018, House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing or at any other time related to the proposed Sinclair-Tribune merger. Further, our investigation did not reveal evidence of any other White House communications with FCC staff.

I have attached a copy of that report for your review as well, and I address your specific questions in turn below.

1. With respect to the call I received from former White House Counsel Don McGahn regarding the transaction, the call took place on July 17. To the best of my knowledge, no one else participated in the call nor was any transcript, recording, or other documentation made of the call, and my description of the contents of the conversation as relayed in my prior letter is accurate. As previously relayed, Counsel McGahn expressed no view on the merits of the transaction, either directly or by implication, on Mr. McGahn's behalf or on behalf of anyone else, and accordingly the Committee had not asked me to disclose contacts such as this status inquiry. The report of the Office of Inspector General further explains that neither the Commission's *ex parte* rules nor any other Commission rules required disclosure of this conversation. Nonetheless, I freely disclosed the conversation when asked at the August 16 hearing.
2. It was not inconsistent.
3. Please see my response to question 1; at no time did Counsel McGahn express any view on the transaction. Again, as found in the Office of Inspector General's report on this very matter, I fully complied with all rules and requirements and answered truthfully and forthrightly the question you posed.
4. No, this was simply a status inquiry; he did not suggest that the Commission take any action or reach any decision.

5. On August 21, I said during an appearance at the Technology Policy Institute's Aspen Forum that this "was the first time we had received a status inquiry of that kind" regarding a deal. However, as I have relayed before, the call was simply a status inquiry, and at no time was any view expressed regarding the transaction or the draft order I had circulated to my colleagues.
6. I only had one conversation with Counsel McGahn regarding this matter, and it took place on July 17. To the extent that I told the Office of Inspector General that it occurred on July 16, I misspoke (and have informed the Office of Inspector General of such). I disclosed this conversation to the Office of Inspector General during an interview.
7. As explained in the attached report, the Office of the Inspector General "did not identify any other conversations between the White House and the Commission (Office of the Chairman and Offices of the Commissioners) related to the Sinclair-Tribune merger," and I am unaware of any such conversations or communications with other FCC staff.
8. I will continue to abide by all applicable rules and requirements as well as previous commitments made to the Committee.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

January 3, 2019

The Honorable Tom Udall  
United States Senate  
531 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

On August 28, you wrote regarding my interactions with the White House concerning the Sinclair-Tribune transaction. I am pleased to report that the Commission's independent Office of Inspector General issued a report on November 26 on this very matter. In that report, the Office wrote:

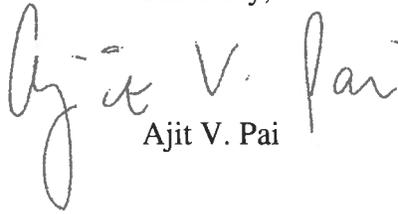
Our investigation did not reveal evidence that Chairman Pai acted improperly with respect to the request from Congress that he disclose information related to his interactions with the White House regarding the proposed merger, nor did he make material omissions at the July 25, 2018, House Energy and Commerce Committee hearing or at any other time related to the proposed Sinclair-Tribune merger. Further, our investigation did not reveal evidence of any other White House communications with FCC staff.

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8. I will continue to abide by all applicable rules and requirements as well as previous commitments made to the Committee.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

January 3, 2019

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

Dear Senator Markey:

On August 28, you wrote regarding my interactions with the White House concerning the Sinclair-Tribune transaction. I am pleased to report that the Commission's independent Office of Inspector General issued a report on November 26 on this very matter. In that report, the Office wrote:

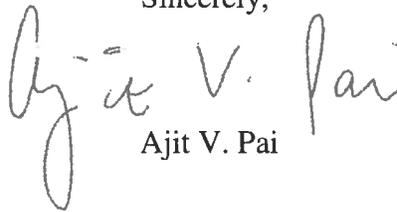
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8. I will continue to abide by all applicable rules and requirements as well as previous commitments made to the Committee.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Ajit V. Pai