



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

December 28, 2018

The Honorable Steve King
U.S. House of Representatives
2210 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your recent letter. I very much enjoyed meeting with the team at Spencer Municipal Utilities last year. Visiting communities like Spencer—communities that make every effort to bring high-speed broadband to their residents—always reminds me of the resilience of the American people and the ingenuity of rural communities to find new solutions to old problems.

Thank you for sharing your concerns regarding the 3.5 GHz Citizens Broadband Radio Service band. Shortly after becoming Chairman in January 2017, I asked Commissioner O’Rielly to take the lead in examining whether the Commission’s 3.5 GHz rules struck the right balance for encouraging investment and innovation in the band. Those rules facilitate shared use of the 3.5 GHz band. Our more recent decision leaves that core sharing framework in place and makes targeted updates to the licensing and technical rules that will encourage more efficient and intensive use of 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. We increased the size of PAL license areas to counties, a compromise between census tracts and much larger Partial Economic Areas and one supported by rural interests such as the Rural Wireless Association, the Competitive Carriers Association, and NTCA—The Rural Broadband Association. We also extended license terms from three to ten years with a renewal expectancy. Based on the record developed in this proceeding, we expect that these rules will promote additional investment and encourage broader deployment in the band by small mobile wireless providers and rural wireless Internet service providers, ensure that our rules for this service keep up with technological advancements, and help to maintain 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 blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai