



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 2, 2019

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan
U.S. House of Representatives
2411 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

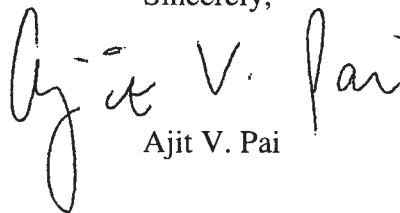
Dear Congressman Sablan:

Thank you for your letter about the effect that Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu have had on infrastructure in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, particularly landline and wireless networks. I share your concern for the residents of the Commonwealth who have suffered during and after these storms.

During my tenure as Chairman, the Federal Communications Commission has spent a great deal of time addressing emergencies such as typhoons and hurricanes. In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the agency worked collaboratively with federal, state, and territorial partners to advance communications restoration and recovery as quickly as possible. The FCC has also made appropriate regulatory changes to address communications needs in affected areas; as you observed, in October 2017, the agency extended relief under our E-Rate program to schools and libraries located in counties designated by FEMA as eligible for individual disaster assistance and schools incurring additional costs because student counts had increased by 5% or more because they were serving displaced students. I'm pleased to report to you that the FCC will consider similar steps to ensure that the people of the Commonwealth are once again able to rely on the communications networks that are increasingly critical in our daily lives.

I appreciate your getting in touch about 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, looped initial "A".
Ajit V. Pai

