

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

December 13, 2018

939

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

DEC 18 2018

FCC Mailroom

Dear Chairman Pai:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been hit by two catastrophic weather events in recent months, Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. In response to these storms I am writing to request the Commission adopt, on an expedited basis, temporary rules to provide immediate relief to Marianas schools and libraries contending with the devastation, as you did in October 2017 in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

President Trump declared major disasters for the Marianas islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota on September 29 and on October 26. Each of the islands suffered widespread destruction of homes, businesses, public facilities, and infrastructure, including landline and wireless telecommunications. Six weeks after Super Typhoon Yutu, only 44% of Saipan was on grid power. Thousands of people remain in temporary shelter. Schools are running double sessions to compensate for campuses lost to the storms.

The rules you adopted in October 2017, FCC-17-139, made available targeted support to schools and libraries that were forced to rebuild facilities and replace equipment damaged by the hurricanes. You provided increased flexibility for eligible services to be restored through service substitutions. You, also, made additional E-rate support available for schools that were incurring additional costs for eligible services because the schools were serving students that had been displaced by the storms.

I ask that you do the same for the Marianas and take any other actions that may be appropriate to assist with recovery efforts.

Should your staff have any questions about this request, please contact Bob Schwalbach, Chief of Staff, at bob.schwalbach@mail.house.gov or 202.309.5787.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN
Member of Congress