

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-5400


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January 17, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, Dc 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I write the instant letter as a follow up to the letter I sent on October 29, 2018, in which I expressed concerns with the petition that had been filed by USTelecom—The Broadband Association requesting forbearance from the certain requirements of the section 251(c) of the Communications Act, 47 U.S.C. § 251(c). Among other things, I noted that I was concerned that the level of competition in the Puerto Rico telecommunications sector was not similar to that of the rest of the United States and that I wanted to ensure to any relief did not impede network restoration and reconstruction efforts in Puerto Rico after Hurricane María.

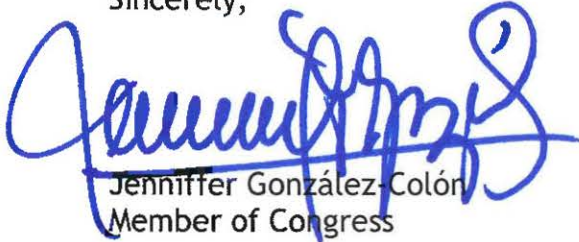


Since I sent my letter of October 29, 2018, I have reviewed additional information that subsequently had been filed with the FCC. After carefully reviewing this additional information not available at the time of my letter, the most pressing concerns that I had regarding the state of competition in the Puerto Rico telecommunications sector have been addressed, as it appears that Puerto Rico is not an outlier when it comes to competition and the impact of new technologies in the market. While I do not take any position on whether the FCC should grant the nationwide relief requested by USTelecom—and I trust that the FCC will review the record carefully to reach a determination that benefits competition and consumers across the United States—I do not believe that the state of competition in the Puerto Rico telecommunications sector justifies treating Puerto Rico differently from the rest of the states when it comes to the petition of USTelecom and other nationwide deregulatory efforts that the FCC may be undertaking. Puerto Rico and the Puerto Rican consumer already have benefited from being included in similar efforts under your leadership, I fear that treating Puerto Rico differently in these deregulatory efforts may cause more

harm than good in light of the current challenges in restoring and reconstructing our telecommunications infrastructure.

As always, I am grateful for your leadership and commitment to assisting Puerto Rico in the challenges ahead, and I thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely,



Jennifer González-Colón
Member of Congress