



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Joe Manchin
United States Senate
306 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Manchin:

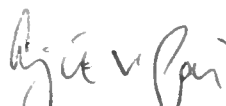
Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

I agree that using updated and accurate broadband deployment data is critical to bridging the digital divide. We need to understand where broadband is available and where it is not in order to target our efforts and direct funding to areas that are most in need. That is why the Commission initiated two basic reforms to the collection of broadband data when I came into office. First, we initiated a new data collection for mobile broadband coverage as part of Phase II of the Mobility Fund (which included a robust challenge process). Second, we began a top-to-bottom review of the Form 477 process in order to ensure that broadband data was more accurate, granular, and ultimately useful to the Commission and the public.

In your letter, you ask whether a continuous public feedback mechanism will improve the Commission's broadband coverage maps and its Form 477 data. I believe it could. Indeed, as you may know, the Commission's Speed Test App is one way consumers can currently participate in collecting data about broadband deployment, and it has proven to be a useful tool for assessing service availability. I've asked Commission staff to look into other ways to collect and use accurate data from many sources—including consumers themselves—to assemble a more reliable map. We are interested in developing methods for the submission of reliable, consumer-driven data in order to better inform the Commission's decision making in this area. We would be happy to receive any input you or your staff might have on how to establish and implement such methods.

I appreciate your continued interest in working with the FCC to close the digital divide and look forward to continuing to collaborate on this issue. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2019

The Honorable James Lankford
United States Senate
316 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Lankford:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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April 26, 2019

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
172 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Capito:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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April 26, 2019

The Honorable Angus King
United States Senate
133 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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April 26, 2019

The Honorable John N. Kennedy
United States Senate
383 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Kennedy:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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April 26, 2019

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn
United States Senate
B40B Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blackburn:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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April 26, 2019

The Honorable Doug Jones
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Jones:

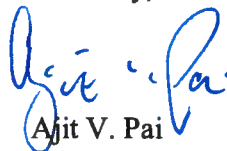
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 26, 2019

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence.

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