



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 30, 2019

The Honorable Peter A. DeFazio
U.S. House of Representatives
2134 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman DeFazio:

Thank you for your correspondence concerning radiofrequency (RF) issues and for sharing your views about the potential impact of 5G deployment on RF exposure. Please be assured that the Federal Communications Commission places a high priority on the safety of wireless services and devices and relies upon verified engineering and scientific data as we carry out our mission.

As an initial matter, I note that you have addressed this letter to me as well as Acting Commissioner Sharpless. Because we are an independent regulatory agency, I will answer you individually as FCC Chairman.

The FCC relies on the expertise of health and safety agencies and organizations with respect to appropriate levels of RF exposure. Our current RF exposure limits incorporate recommendations from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, and other federal health and safety agencies. And these limits are derived from exposure limits recommended by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers, Inc. and the National Council on Radiation Protection and Measurements. Both these institutions have extensive experience and knowledge in RF-related issues and have spent a considerable amount of time evaluating published scientific studies that can inform appropriate exposure limits.

Importantly, the FCC has an ongoing rulemaking related to this matter. Specifically, the FCC adopted a Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, and Notice of Inquiry in 2013. The Report and Order resolved several issues related to measurements and exemptions raised, reevaluating some and modifying them to reflect the latest information available and usage and deployment patterns. The Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking sought comment on further changes to our rules. And the Notice of Inquiry sought public input on whether our basic RF exposure limits should be revisited. The record in the proceeding is voluminous, with over one thousand filings (totaling more than 20,000 pages). FCC staff is considering all of this evidence as it determines whether and in what way changes to our rules in this area should be made.

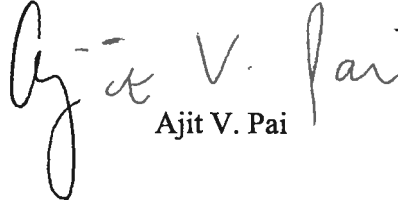
I also would note that we have sponsored groups of congressional staffers at our Columbia, Maryland testing facilities to see and speak with our engineers and technicians as they operate the RF testing equipment to ensure proper compliance with engineering standards. Earlier this year, more than 20 staffers attended our program and we hope to have another group

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visit this coming summer. My staff would be happy to invite your staff to our next scheduled program.

Please let me know if I can be of 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 initial "A" and a long tail on the "i".

Ajit V. Pai