



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

May 23, 2019

The Honorable Denver Riggleman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1022 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Riggleman:

Thank you for your letter regarding Virginian's access to broadband. I share your view that high-speed Internet access is critical to economic opportunity, job creation, education, and civic engagement.

Additionally, I agree that maintaining 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 limited funding to areas that are most in need. Accordingly, in an August 2017 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the Commission began to take a focused look at reforming the FCC Form 477 process—the principal tool used by the Commission to gather data on communications services, including broadband services. We wanted to explore revising aspects of the data collection to increase its usefulness to the Commission, Congress, the industry, and the public. We continue to look into ways to collect and use accurate data, including consumers themselves, to assemble a reliable map.

I also agree with you that unlicensed spectrum in the TV white spaces—those channels on which no broadcaster is broadcasting—promises an opportunity for new wireless broadband deployments. And I am encouraged that after the Commission's recent action in the docket (namely, a March Report and Order and Order on Reconsideration resolving a number of outstanding issues), Microsoft has engaged with the broadcast community to seek a new rulemaking on further steps we can take to improve the use of this spectrum.

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 initial "A".

Ajit V. Pai