



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 19, 2019

The Honorable Martin Heinrich
United States Senate
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Heinrich:

Thank you for your letter regarding the importance of improving access to high-speed broadband in rural and Tribal communities. I share your view that high-speed Internet access is critical to economic opportunity, job creation, education, and civic engagement. Since my first day as Chairman, my top priority has been closing the digital divide and bringing digital opportunity to all Americans.

As part of the Commission's efforts to reduce the digital divide, the Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP) works with Tribal governments and organizations to increase their awareness of, and participation in, Commission programs, including those supported by the Universal Service Fund. Towards this end, throughout the year, ONAP conducts Tribal workshops and attends other Tribal events across the country. Staff from the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), which administers Fund programs, regularly accompany Commission staff at such outreach events. USAC staff also independently hold annual applicant training sessions for some USF programs both in Washington DC and throughout the United States.

I am happy to inform you that, as part of the Commission's ongoing outreach in Tribal and rural areas, ONAP and USAC have several outreach and training events already planned in New Mexico later this year.

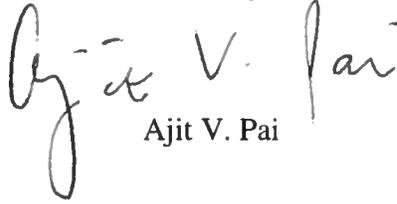
The first of these events will be held on July 31. Commission staff will be participating in the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's Rural Networks Conference in Farmington. During this event, Commission subject-matter experts will make presentations about the universal service programs supporting broadband and other communications infrastructure and services on Tribal lands.

The second will be held on November 21 at San Juan College in Farmington. USAC staff will hold one of its annual E-Rate program trainings, tailored to address the needs of Tribal applicants. Further, USAC plans to conduct outreach for the Rural Health Care program in New Mexico this fall. USAC's trainings will cover various introductory and advanced topics, providing applicants with the resources needed to effectively participate in universal service programs and improve high-speed Internet access in rural and Tribal communities.

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I look forward to continuing to work with you to close the digital divide. 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" and a long, sweeping underline.

Ajit V. Pai