



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Richard J. Durbin  
United States Senate  
711 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Durbin:

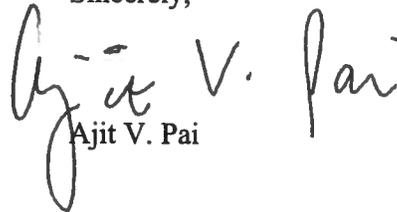
Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, and the territories of Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, 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 to target our efforts and direct funding to areas that are most in needed. That is why the Commission began a top-to-bottom review of the Form 477 process to ensure that broadband data was more accurate, granular, and ultimately useful to the Commission and the public.

After a thorough review of the record and the painstaking work of our career staff, the Commission adopted a Report and Order at the FCC's August Open Meeting that will result in more granular and more accurate broadband maps through the creation of the Digital Opportunity Data Collection. That means requiring broadband providers to report where they actually offer service below the census block level, having the Universal Service Administrative Company independently test the validity of that data, and incorporating public feedback to ensure up to date and accurate broadband deployment maps.

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,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth  
United States Senate  
524 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

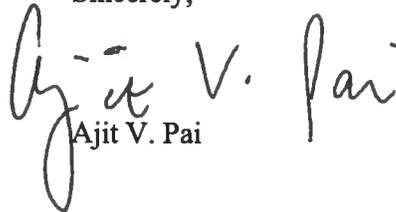
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Bobby L. Rush  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2188 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rush:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, 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  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2367 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

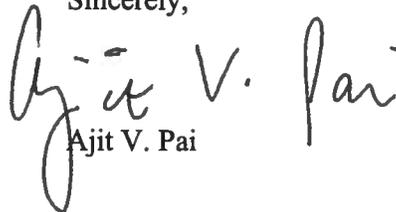
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Raja Krishnamoorthi  
U.S. House of Representatives  
515 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Krishnamoorthi:

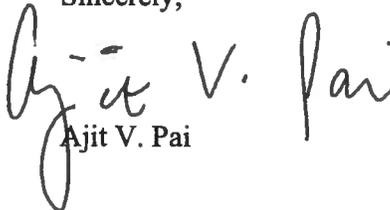
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Cheri Bustos  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1009 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Bustos:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, 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



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WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Sean Casten  
U.S. House of Representatives  
429 Cannon Houe Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Casten:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, 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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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Mike Bost  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1440 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bost:

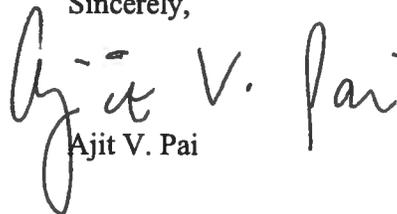
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Rodney Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1740 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, 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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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Darin LaHood  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1424 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman LaHood:

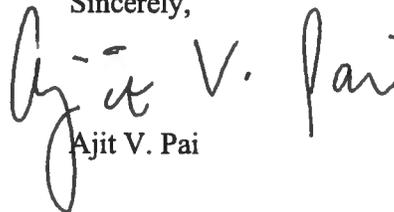
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable John Shimkus  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2217 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Shimkus:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Bill Foster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1224 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Foster:

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OFFICE OF  
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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Danny K. Davis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2159 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Davis:

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OFFICE OF  
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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Jesús "Chuy" Garcia  
U.S. House of Representatives  
530 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Garcia:

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OFFICE OF  
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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Lauren Underwood  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1118 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Underwood:

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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Brad Schneider  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1432 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Schneider:

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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2458 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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August 19, 2019

The Honorable Robin Kelly  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1239 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Kelly:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, 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 to target our efforts and direct funding to areas that are most in needed. That is why the Commission began a top-to-bottom review of the Form 477 process to ensure that broadband data was more accurate, granular, and ultimately useful to the Commission and the public.

After a thorough review of the record and the painstaking work of our career staff, the Commission adopted a Report and Order at the FCC's August Open Meeting that will result in more granular and more accurate broadband maps through the creation of the Digital Opportunity Data Collection. That means requiring broadband providers to report where they actually offer service below the census block level, having the Universal Service Administrative Company independently test the validity of that data, and incorporating public feedback to ensure up to date and accurate broadband deployment maps.

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,

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



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Adam Kinzinger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2245 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Kinzinger:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, 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  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

August 19, 2019

The Honorable Daniel Lipinski  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2346 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Lipinski:

Thank you for your letter regarding broadband mapping. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself in 45 states, including Illinois, 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