



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
425 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

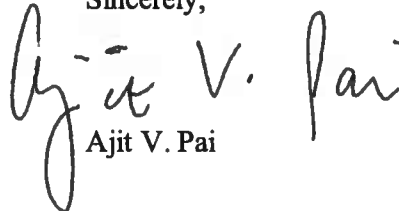
Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin L. Cardin
United States Senate
509 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Cardin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

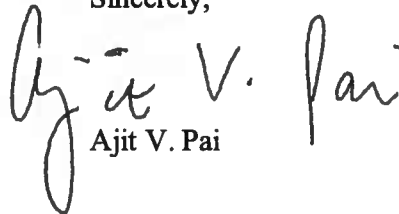
Dear Senator Casey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
516 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

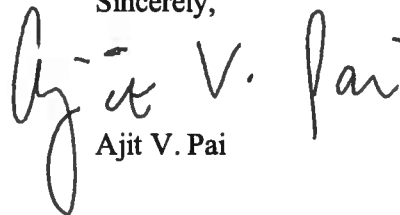
Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
United States Senate
322 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

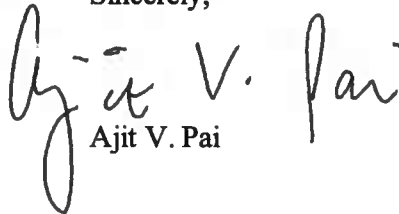
Dear Senator Schumer:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
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October 15, 2019

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen
United States Senate
110 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

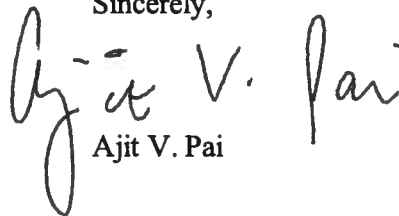
Dear Senator Van Hollen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



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OFFICE OF
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October 15, 2019

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

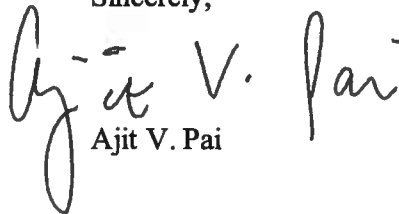
Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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OFFICE OF
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October 15, 2019

The Honorable Doug Jones
United States Senate
326 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

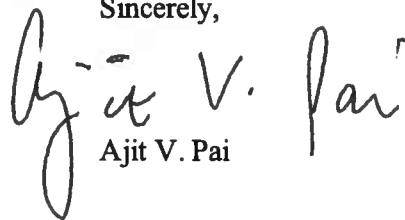
Dear Senator Jones:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

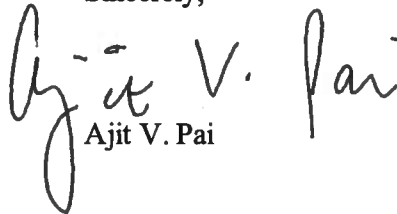
Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

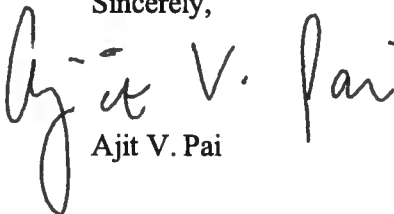
Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Jack Reed
United States Senate
728 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

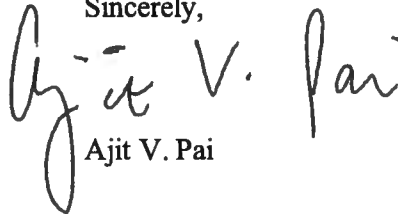
Dear Senator Reed:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Jacky Rosen
United States Senate
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Rosen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senate
506 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Kamala D. Harris
United States Senate
112 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

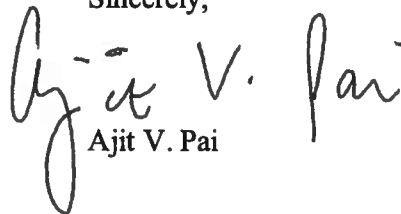
Dear Senator Harris:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senate
478 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Gillibrand:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sinema:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
330 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

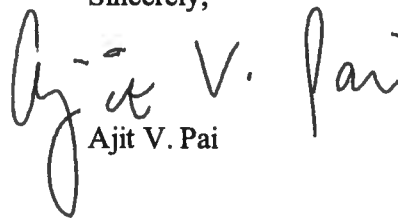
Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 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 proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Michael Bennet
United States Senate
261 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Bennet:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$1.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Patty Murray
United States Senate
154 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Murray:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

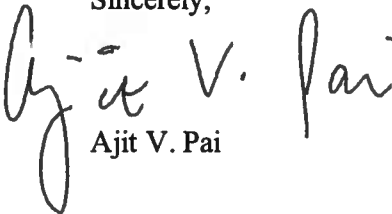
Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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October 15, 2019

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

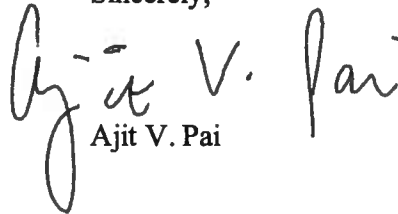
Dear Senator Durbin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

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October 15, 2019

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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October 15, 2019

The Honorable Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senate
530 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Whitehouse:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
United States Senate
713 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

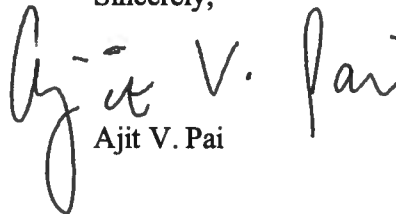
Dear Senator Brown:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
709 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

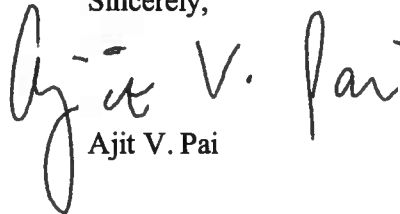
Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

October 15, 2019

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

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Tina Smith
United States Senate
720 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

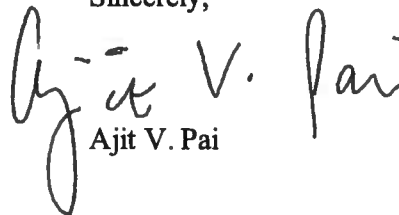
Dear Senator Smith:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 15, 2019

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

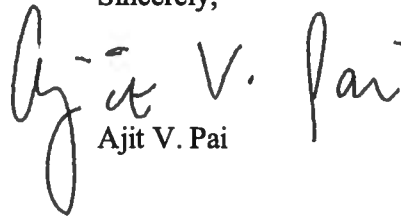
Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter regarding the proposal to establish a cap on the Universal Service Fund.

As you know, in May, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on possible changes to the budget structures of the four universal service programs, and on ways to promote overall efficiency, fairness, and sustainability of the Fund. We initiated this proceeding mindful of our obligation to safeguard the funds ultimately paid by consumers and to ensure that these important programs are funded appropriately. We observed that each of the USF programs is already capped or operating under a targeted budget. And we sought comment on a proposed overall annual budget of \$11.42 billion, which is more than *three billion dollars* above current USF program disbursements. This amount itself would be adjusted regularly for inflation.

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