



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

October 10, 2019

The Honorable Rick L. Scott
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

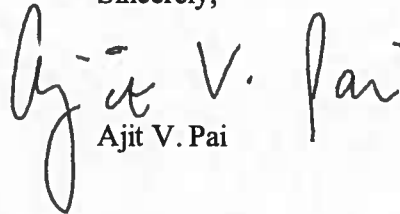
Dear Senator Scott:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending submarine cable landing license application for the Pacific Light Cable Network – a submarine cable that would link the United States with Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Philippines. I agree that the Commission has an obligation to review applications to ensure that they do not pose a risk to our national security in an evolving national security environment. Please be assured that the International Bureau is following its normal practice to seek input from the Executive Branch agencies, including Team Telecom, regarding issues of national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy as they relate to specific applications. Your letter will be placed into the record, and a status update regarding the application is below.

Applicants – which include subsidiaries of Google and Facebook, along with the Pacific Light Data Communications Company (PLDC) based in Hong Kong – filed the application on April 21, 2017, followed by four supplements, the last on December 27, 2017. The International Bureau placed the application on Public Notice on October 31, 2017. The December 27, 2017 supplement indicated a major change in ownership of PLDC. On January 25, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security, a member of Team Telecom, requested deferral of Commission action on the application pending completion of Team Telecom's national security review. The application remains under review at this time.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai