



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Betty McCollum  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2256 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McCollum:

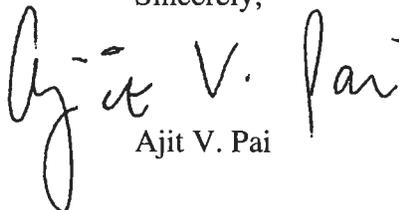
Thank you for your focus on the Commission's work to modernize and make more productive use of the 2.5 GHz spectrum band. This band is the largest contiguous block of spectrum below 3 GHz in the United States. It is unassigned in much of the country, particularly in the Western United States. And it is well suited to rural deployments. Given the potential of this key mid-band spectrum, we must make sure that the 2.5 GHz band is used to bring advanced wireless services to those who for too long have been on the wrong side of that divide.

As I've seen for myself—from the Rosebud Sioux Reservation in South Dakota to the Navajo Nation in Arizona, from the Coeur D'Alene Reservation in Idaho to the Jemez and Zia Pueblos in New Mexico—the digital divide is most keenly felt in Indian Country. I want to make sure that those committed to connecting Tribal members in rural areas are given a strong opportunity to succeed. That's why I insisted on, and the Commission included, a Tribal priority filing window in our order opening the 2.5 GHz band for additional use; that early opportunity to access this spectrum will help some of the most marginalized communities in the country.

I know the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) has been working with Commission staff to prepare Tribal communities for the upcoming eligibility window. And following discussions I personally have had with representatives of Tribal and Native Hawaiian organizations, I share your view that Tribes will need sufficient time to prepare and participate in the Tribal priority window. Therefore, on December 2, I sent letters to Tribal and Native Hawaiian leaders, and the FCC also issued a Public Notice, stating that the Tribal priority window will open on February 3, 2020 and close on August 3, 2020. This extended 182-day window is the result of the hard work of agency staff and takes into account NCAI's recent resolution on this issue.

The FCC takes seriously its trust relationship with federally-recognized Tribal Nations, and we share the common goal of closing the digital divide in Indian Country. To this end, it is important that we collaborate to ensure that interested Tribes can take advantage of this unprecedented option. Working together, we can and will bring greater digital opportunity to everyone in Indian Country.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Cindy Axne  
U.S. House of Representatives  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Axne:

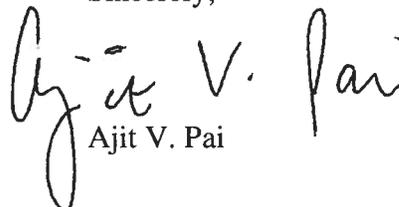
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Debra Haaland  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1237 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Haaland:

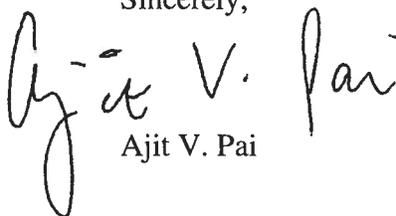
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Don Young  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2314 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Young:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Gwen Moore  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2252 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

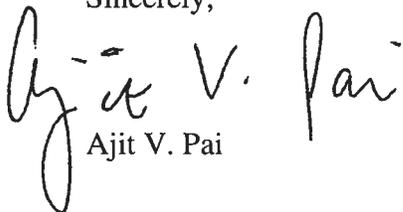
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Jared Huffman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1406 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Huffman:

Thank you for your focus on the Commission's work to modernize and make more productive use of the 2.5 GHz spectrum band. This band is the largest contiguous block of spectrum below 3 GHz in the United States. It is unassigned in much of the country, particularly in the Western United States. And it is well suited to rural deployments. Given the potential of this key mid-band spectrum, we must make sure that the 2.5 GHz band is used to bring advanced wireless services to those who for too long have been on the wrong side of that divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

December 3, 2019

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1511 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

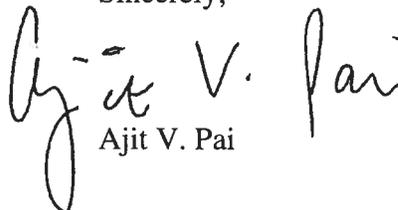
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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Raul Ruiz  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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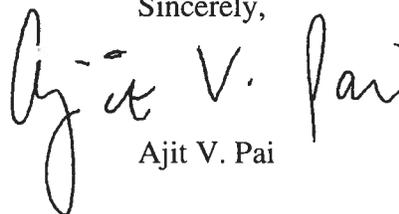
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Ruben Gallego  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1218 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

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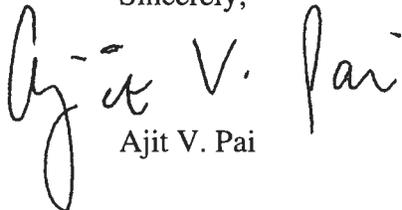
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cole:

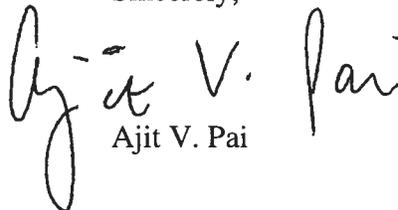
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OFFICE OF  
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December 3, 2019

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran  
U.S. House of Representatives  
126 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

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2438 Rayburn House Office Building  
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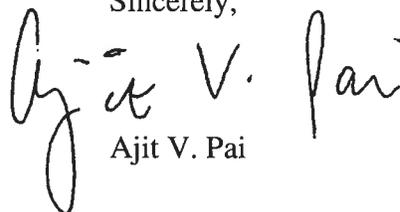
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