



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Antonio Delgado
U.S. House of Representatives
1007 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Delgado:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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.

In January 2017, in the Commission's first vote after I became Chairman, the agency granted New York State's petition for a waiver of the Connect America Phase II auction program rules in order to coordinate funding between the federal Universal Service Fund and the state's New NY Broadband Program to aid the deployment of broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of rural New York. I am pleased that we were able to partner with the State of New York to bring digital opportunity to many rural residents of the Empire State.

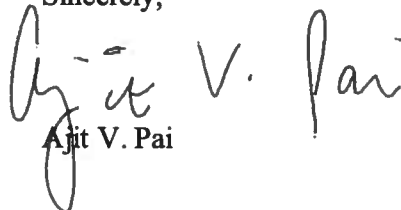
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Page 2—The Honorable Antonio Delgado

Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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January 30, 2020

The Honorable Paul Tonko
U.S. House of Representatives
2463 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Tonko:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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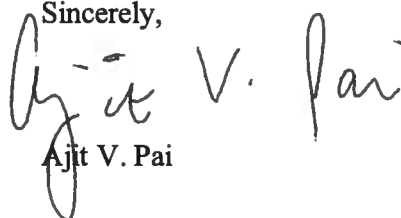
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Grace Meng
U.S. House of Representatives
1317 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Meng:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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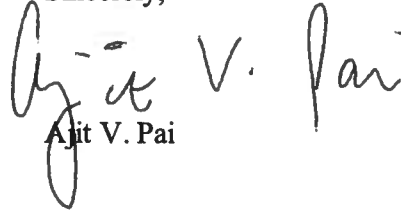
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January 30, 2020

The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Engel:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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.

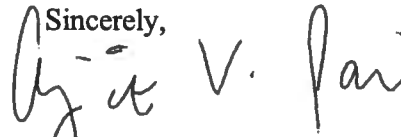
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
1027 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Maloney:

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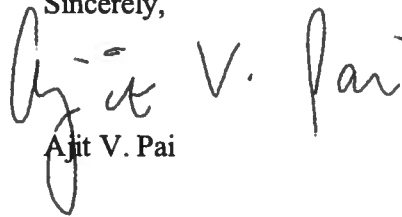
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OFFICE OF
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January 30, 2020

The Honorable Brian Higgins
U.S. House of Representatives
2459 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Higgins:

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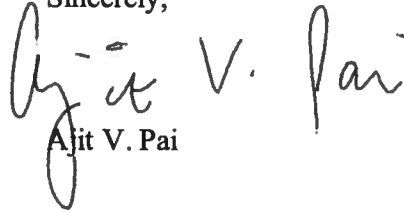
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
U.S. House of Representatives
1630 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Espaillat:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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.

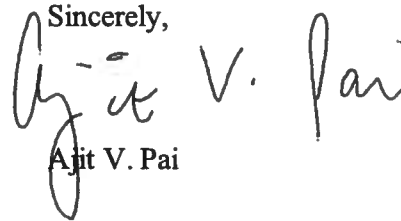
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January 30, 2020

The Honorable John Katko
U.S. House of Representatives
1620 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Katko:

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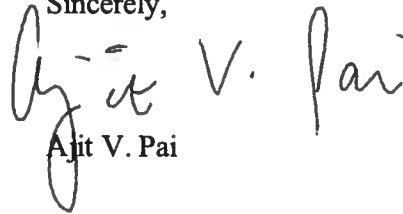
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Tom Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Suozzi:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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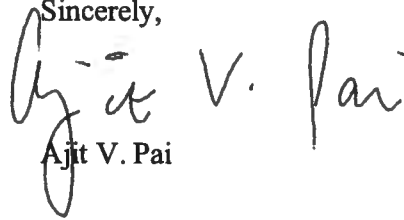
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Max Rose
U.S. House of Representatives
1529 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rose:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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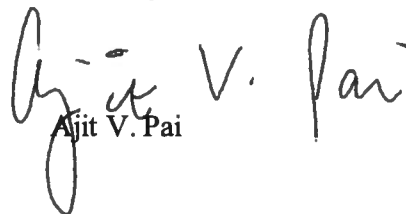
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January 30, 2020

The Honorable Joseph Morelle
U.S. House of Representatives
1317 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Morelle:

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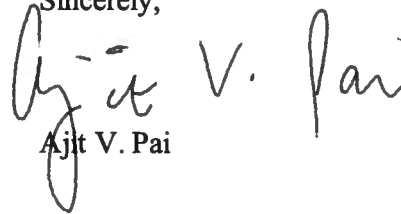
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Anthony Brindisi
U.S. House of Representatives
329 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Brindisi:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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.

In January 2017, in the Commission's first vote after I became Chairman, the agency granted New York State's petition for a waiver of the Connect America Phase II auction program rules in order to coordinate funding between the federal Universal Service Fund and the state's New NY Broadband Program to aid the deployment of broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of rural New York. I am pleased that we were able to partner with the State of New York to bring digital opportunity to many rural residents of the Empire State.

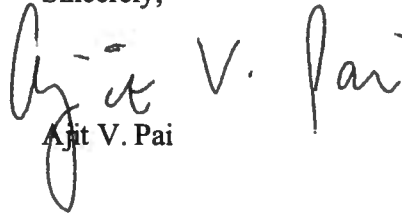
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Page 2—The Honorable Anthony Brindisi

Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
U.S. House of Representatives
2365 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Lowey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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.

In January 2017, in the Commission's first vote after I became Chairman, the agency granted New York State's petition for a waiver of the Connect America Phase II auction program rules in order to coordinate funding between the federal Universal Service Fund and the state's New NY Broadband Program to aid the deployment of broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of rural New York. I am pleased that we were able to partner with the State of New York to bring digital opportunity to many rural residents of the Empire State.

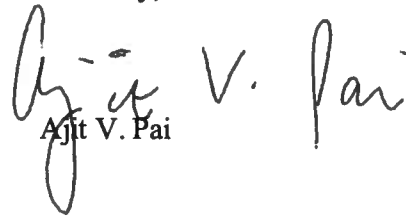
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Page 2—The Honorable Nita M. Lowey

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Elise Stefanik
U.S. House of Representatives
318 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Stefanik:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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.

In January 2017, in the Commission's first vote after I became Chairman, the agency granted New York State's petition for a waiver of the Connect America Phase II auction program rules in order to coordinate funding between the federal Universal Service Fund and the state's New NY Broadband Program to aid the deployment of broadband infrastructure to unserved areas of rural New York. I am pleased that we were able to partner with the State of New York to bring digital opportunity to many rural residents of the Empire State.

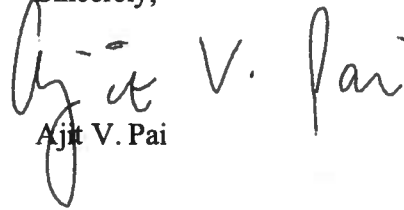
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Page 2—The Honorable Elise Stefanik

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Kathleen Rice
U.S. House of Representatives
1508 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Rice:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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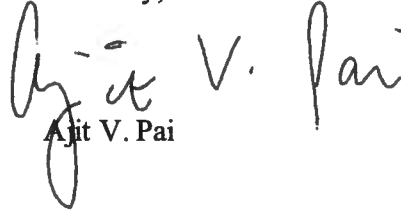
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Page 2—The Honorable Kathleen Rice

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Jose E. Serrano
U.S. House of Representatives
2354 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Serrano:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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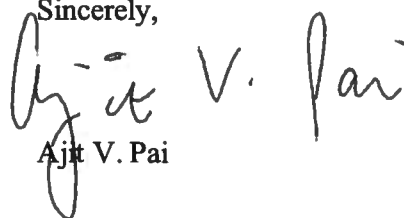
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Page 2—The Honorable Jose E. Serrano

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
U.S. House of Representatives
2109 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Nadler:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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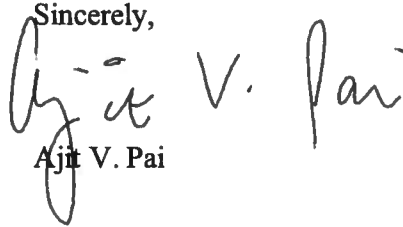
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Page 2—The Honorable Jerrold Nadler

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez
U.S. House of Representatives
2302 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Velazquez:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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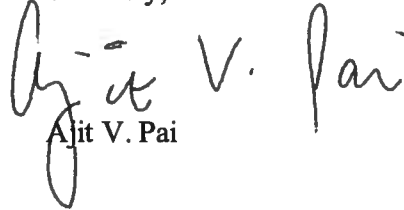
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Page 2—The Honorable Nydia M. Velazquez

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks
U.S. House of Representatives
2234 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Meeks:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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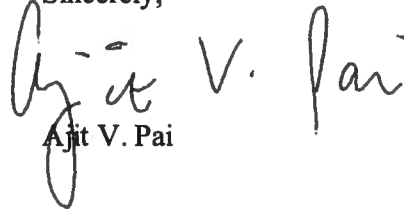
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Page 2—The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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.

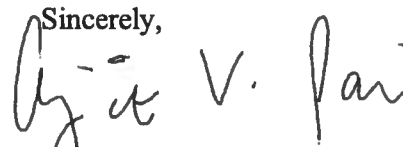
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Page 2—The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Peter T. King
U.S. House of Representatives
339 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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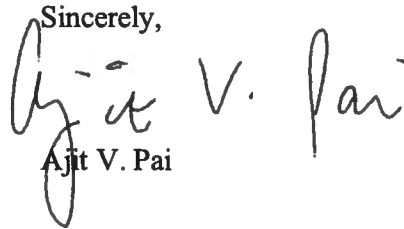
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Page 2—The Honorable Peter T. King

Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to encourage high-speed, reliable, affordable broadband deployment to rural communities through the proposed Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide is my top priority. I have seen for myself 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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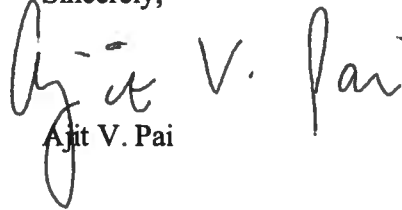
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With respect to your concern about how the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund will impact New York, the draft report and order contained some overly broad language on that issue. I am pleased to inform you that this language will be removed from the item, and that the areas in New York eligible for Phase I of the program will be determined by the same neutral principles applicable to other states. While this of course does not guarantee that any particular area will be eligible for support, it ensures that the Commission's eligibility criteria are applied evenly across the country.

Page 2—The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney

Thank you for your interest in the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund, and I look forward to continuing to collaborate with you to close the digital divide.

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 distinct "Pai" at the end.

Ajit V. Pai