



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 14, 2020

The Honorable Mike Thompson
U.S. House of Representatives
231 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

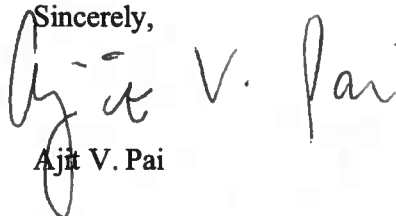
Dear Congressman Thompson:

Promoting public safety through reliable communications networks and services, particularly during emergencies and times of need, is a vital goal of the Commission. Thank you for your letter regarding the Wireless Resiliency Cooperative Framework and the threat of wildfires to Americans and our communications networks.

As you know, the FCC is undergoing a comprehensive review of the framework. Since 2017, the Commission has been receiving and reviewing post-disaster action reports from framework signatories. Last September, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau sent letters to the nation's largest wireless providers seeking information on the actions they were taking to ensure the availability of wireless services for California residents during and after wildfires—and when electric utilities shut down power to entire regions, sometimes without any warning. More broadly, through a series of Public Notices, the Commission has been seeking comment on how to improve the framework and incorporate backhaul providers and electric utilities into the framework.

Expanding the scope of the framework to include electric utilities is especially important given the role of a lack of power has played in cutting off access to communications to consumers. This is especially true in wildfire-prone regions like California, where installing large reserves of combustible materials may be particularly dangerous. As such, I have directed agency staff to engage with all stakeholders to ensure the whole swath of those responsible for keeping the communications networks up and running are participating in an expanded framework.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai