



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

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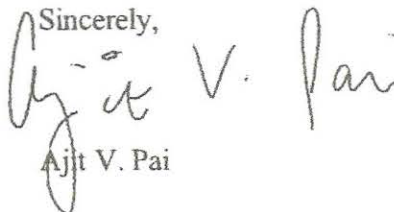
The Honorable Gus Bilirakis
U.S. House of Representatives
2112 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Bilirakis:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's proceeding to modernize our unbundling and resale rules. I appreciate your support and I agree with you that the communications landscape has dramatically transformed since the Telecommunications Act of 1996 was enacted.

As you note, there are now a multitude of providers in the marketplace using a variety of technologies and offering capabilities and services that were unforeseen in 1996. In light of these marketplace changes, the Commission adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in November 2019 proposing to remove certain unbundling and resale obligations that can unduly burden incumbent carriers and reduce incentives for both incumbents and competitors to deploy and transition to next-generation networks. At the same time, the Notice recognizes that unbundling requirements may continue to have benefits in areas where facilities-based competition is likely less to occur. To strike the right balance, we therefore proposed to maintain unbundling of broadband-capable loops used to serve residential customers in rural areas. Commission staff are reviewing and analyzing the record in this proceeding as it develops.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai