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APR 15 2020

FCC Mailroom

*Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515*

*Anna G. Eshoo
Eighteenth District
California*

April 8, 2020

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The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

Thank you for your response to my long-standing request regarding the Commission's enforcement inquiry into the broadcast of Radio Sputnik programming over American airwaves. While I'm pleased that the FCC completed its inquiry, I'm concerned that the Commission's sponsorship identification rules are too permissive if they allow propaganda on American airwaves without requiring identification of the foreign government that is ultimately paying for the propaganda.

I support your decision to instruct the Commission's Media Bureau to modify sponsorship identification rules to account for foreign propaganda. However, I believe your stated timeline of "months" falls short, and I urge you to do everything you can to ensure that this process moves as quickly as possible.

The November general election is less than seven months away and voters are in the process of deciding whom to support. According to Shelby Pierson, the top election security expert in the Intelligence Community, the threat of foreign interference in the 2020 election is "broader and more diverse" than it was in 2016. Other experts agree. It is therefore imperative that the FCC act expeditiously to protect American airwaves. Waiting too long will further damage our democracy.

I will continue to closely monitor the FCC's work on this issue, and I hope you will bring the high urgency to this matter that our democracy deserves.

Sincerely,

Anna G. Eshoo
Member of Congress

cc: The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
The Honorable Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner