



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

September 15, 2020

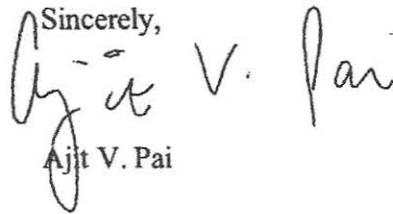
The Honorable Anna Eshoo
U.S. House of Representatives
202 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your continued interest in the Commission's sponsorship identification rules and how they relate to programming such as Radio Sputnik. As you know, I directed the Media Bureau earlier this year to explore whether the Commission should start a rulemaking proceeding on this issue. I'm pleased to report that I recently circulated a draft item for the full Commission's consideration that proposes to establish strong, clear disclosure requirements for broadcast television and radio content sponsored or provided by foreign governments. Specifically, the disclosure requirements would apply if a foreign governmental entity has paid a radio or television station, directly or indirectly, to air material, or if the programming was provided to the station free of charge by such an entity as an inducement to broadcast the material. The proposed rules would also provide standardized disclosure language for stations to use in such instances to specifically identify the foreign government involved. Moreover, they would cover foreign governments and political parties as well as their agents.

I hope my fellow Commissioners will agree to support the item so that we can move forward with comment periods in the near term.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai