



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

January 11, 2021

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

Dear Congresswoman Eshoo:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's process to implement the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act. I share your enthusiasm regarding the possibilities of Open Radio Access Networks (O-RAN) and other solutions that adhere to open and interoperable solutions, and I strongly support open, virtual, and interoperable solutions due to their ability to transform 5G networks.

As such, on September 14, 2020, I hosted a "FCC Forum on 5G Open Radio Access Networks." The Forum consisted of remarks from Secretary of State Michael Pompeo; Robert Blair, Director of Policy Planning, U.S. Department of Commerce; Jane Harman, Director, President, and CEO, The Wilson Center; all five FCC Commissioners; and four panels of experts. It highlighted the important and groundbreaking work on these exciting technologies.

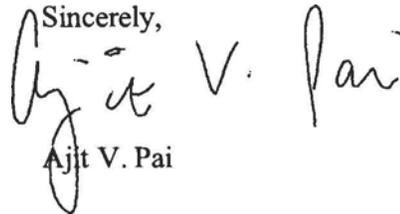
I agree with you that it is of the utmost importance that we secure communications networks as expeditiously as possible, and I take the FCC's role in doing so seriously. In November 2019, the Commission prohibited the use of Universal Service Funds to purchase, obtain, maintain, improve, modify, or otherwise support any equipment or services produced or provided by any company posing a national security threat to the integrity of communications networks or the communications supply chain. In June 2020, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau designated Huawei and ZTE as companies posing such a threat. At the Commission's December open meeting, the Commission affirmed the Bureau's decision.

At the same meeting, the Commission adopted a *Second Report and Order*, that, among other things, adopted rules to create the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program. I applaud Congress for providing the FCC with \$1.9 billion in the coronavirus relief and omnibus legislation to fund this critical program to 'rip and replace' insecure equipment in our nation's communications networks. As you know, the Secure Networks Act requires the Commission to develop a list of suggested replacements. In order to include O-RAN or other virtualized equipment in the list of suggested replacements, the Commission was required to find that open and virtualized equipment "serve as an adequate substitute for the installation of communications equipment." The *Second Report and Order* makes such a finding, and O-RAN and virtualized solutions are eligible for reimbursement. Elsewhere in the *Second Report and Order*, the Commission clearly stated that carriers can act

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now to remove and replace insecure equipment for their networks and be eligible for reimbursement. I understand many have already begun work accordingly.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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January 11, 2021

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
U.S. House of Representatives
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Guthrie:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's process to implement the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act. I share your enthusiasm regarding the possibilities of Open Radio Access Networks (O-RAN) and other solutions that adhere to open and interoperable solutions, and I strongly support open, virtual, and interoperable solutions due to their ability to transform 5G networks.

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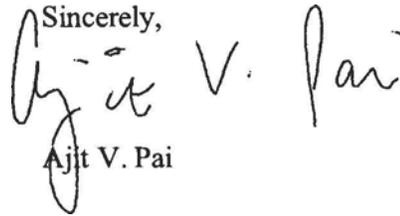
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January 11, 2021

The Honorable Doris Matsui
U.S. House of Representatives
2311 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's process to implement the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act. I share your enthusiasm regarding the possibilities of Open Radio Access Networks (O-RAN) and other solutions that adhere to open and interoperable solutions, and I strongly support open, virtual, and interoperable solutions due to their ability to transform 5G networks.

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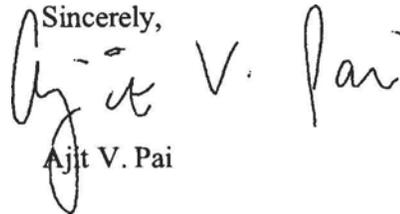
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January 11, 2021

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers
U.S. House of Representatives
1314 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman McMorris Rodgers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's process to implement the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act. I share your enthusiasm regarding the possibilities of Open Radio Access Networks (O-RAN) and other solutions that adhere to open and interoperable solutions, and I strongly support open, virtual, and interoperable solutions due to their ability to transform 5G networks.

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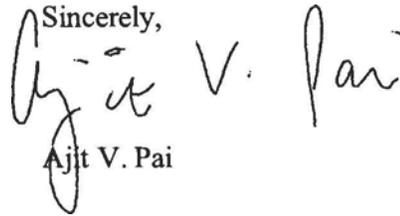
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