



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt
U.S. House of Representatives
1203 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Aderholt:

Thank you for your letter regarding the implementation of the Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide has consistently been my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community—for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses—as well as the impact of its absence. I know you share my view that rural Americans have waited long enough for digital opportunity.

On December 7, 2020, Commission announced the results of the successful Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Phase I Auction. A total of 180 bidders won funding to deploy high-speed broadband to over 5.2 million unserved homes and businesses, almost 99% of the locations available in the auction. Moreover, 99.7% of these locations will be receiving broadband with speeds of at least 100/20 Mbps, with an overwhelming majority (over 85%) getting gigabit-speed broadband.

Each winning bidder is required to file a detailed long-form application demonstrating to Commission staff that they are legally, technically and financially capable of providing the required coverage and performance levels within the specified timeframe in the geographic areas in which it won support. Long-form applicants are required to submit a detailed technology and system design that explains how they will meet the relevant performance requirements, including information regarding quality, coverage, voice service, network management and on-going operation. In addition, winning applicants must submit audited financial statements. Commission staff will closely review each winning bidder's long form before authorizing them to receive support.

Once authorized, winning applicants must submit an irrevocable letter of credit covering the first year of support. Support recipients also are required report their deployed location and technology data on an annual basis in the online High Cost Universal Broadband portal, make certifications when they have met their service milestones, and will be subject to performance testing to ensure their networks are delivering the service carriers promised to consumers. Carriers failing to meet these obligations may be subject to recovery of support already received, plus enforcement action and forfeiture, as appropriate.

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

Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Mo Brooks
U.S. House of Representatives
119 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Brooks:

Thank you for your letter regarding the implementation of the Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide has consistently been my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community-for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses-as well as the impact of its absence. I know you share my view that rural Americans have waited long enough for digital opportunity.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers
U.S. House of Representatives
2184 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

Thank you for your letter regarding the implementation of the Commission's Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. Closing the digital divide has consistently been my top priority. I have seen for myself what affordable high-speed Internet access can do for a community-for its families, its schools, its hospitals, its farms, its businesses-as well as the impact of its absence. I know you share my view that rural Americans have waited long enough for digital opportunity.

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Sincerely,

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Gary Palmer
U.S. House of Representatives
207 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Palmer:

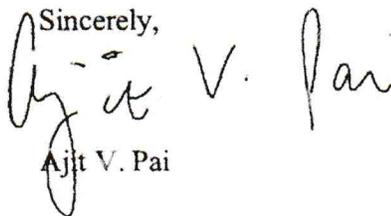
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

January 15, 2021

The Honorable Terri A. Sewell
U.S. House of Representatives
2201 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sewell:

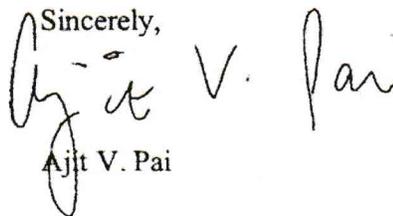
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