

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI**

Re: *Petition for Declaratory Ruling to Clarify 47 U.S.C. § 572 in the Context of Transactions Between Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Cable Operators; Conditional Petition for Forbearance from Section 652 of the Communications Act for Transactions Between Competitive Local Exchange Carriers and Cable Operators, WC Docket No. 11-118*

Today we take a modest but important step towards eliminating regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment. As I noted in Pittsburgh this past July, section 652 of the Communications Act places an unnecessary hurdle to transactions between cable operators and competitive local exchange carriers. When a cable operator purchases a competitive LEC, local competition is likely to increase and more infrastructure is likely to be deployed to serve the enterprise market. Congress entrusted the Commission with forbearance authority to eliminate counterproductive regulatory schemes just like this one, and I am glad we are exercising our authority today to do just that. The end result of our deregulatory action will be more robust, facilities-based competition.