

STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI

Re: *Procedures for Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees; Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008*, MD Docket Nos. 12- 201, 08-65, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Fourteen years have passed since the Commission last realigned its regulatory fees to reflect changes in the communications marketplace. Needless to say, there have been many more changes since then. In 1998, each industry segment largely still played in its own sandbox—telephone companies offered telephone service, cable operators offered cable television, and so on. But today’s currency is convergence: Telephone companies have entered the video market, cable operators are winning voice customers, satellite operators offer competitive radio, television, and broadband services, and wireless providers have unleashed a mobile revolution few if any saw coming.

The Commission must strive to keep pace with this swiftly changing industry—especially when, as here, Congress has affirmatively told us to do so in Section 9 of the Communications Act. I look forward to hearing from all interested parties about how we can update our regulatory fee structure to better reflect the current marketplace, and I accordingly support this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.