

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI**

Re: ***2004 and 2006 Biennial Regulatory Reviews - Streamlining and Other Revisions of Parts 1 and 17 of the Commission's Rules Governing Construction, Marking and Lighting of Antenna Structures, WT Docket No. 10-88, Amendments to Modernize and Clarify Part 17 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Construction, Marking and Lighting of Antenna Structures, RM 11349***

When the Commission eliminates a rule specifying that tower owners must notify the FAA about lighting outages “by telephone *or telegraph*,”<sup>1</sup> you know our modernization effort is long overdue. I’m glad we’re updating our rules today, especially by streamlining some of those governing towers, antennas, and other infrastructure. Spectrum policy grabs the headlines, but wireless infrastructure is no less important. No matter how much spectrum we make available, consumers won’t have superior or even adequate wireless service if companies can’t deploy infrastructure in a timely manner.

And for far too long, the FCC’s infrastructure rules have not kept pace with changes in technology. They have impeded innovation and imposed costs with few—if any—offsetting public benefits. Today’s *Order* makes some progress on this front.

For example, we eliminate an unnecessary mandate by determining that tower owners that use advanced monitoring systems in network operations centers need not conduct quarterly, in-person tower inspections. This is a needless requirement that has cost one company alone \$9.8 million since 2007. By getting rid of outdated regulations like this, we enable infrastructure providers to focus less on jumping through pointless regulatory hoops and more on meeting consumers’ growing demand for wireless services.

But there is much more work to be done. In 2012, I called on the Commission to streamline and reform our rules governing the deployment of wireless infrastructure.<sup>2</sup> Then, in a unanimous vote last year, we announced a comprehensive review of all our wireless infrastructure rules. We teed up issues like small-cell deployments, Distributed Antenna Systems, the use of local moratoria, and improvements to our shot clock rules—reforms that are beyond the scope of today’s narrower *Order*.<sup>3</sup>

Now is the time to complete that review and update our rules in a comprehensive manner. We need to remove barriers to infrastructure deployment so that America can continue to lead the world in wireless.<sup>4</sup> I look forward to working with my colleagues to make that happen.

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<sup>1</sup> 47 C.F.R. § 17.48(a) (emphasis added).

<sup>2</sup> Remarks of Commissioner Ajit Pai at CTIA’s MobileCon, San Diego, California (Oct. 10, 2012), <http://go.usa.gov/Dd6k>.

<sup>3</sup> See *Acceleration of Broadband Deployment by Improving Wireless Facilities Siting Policies; Acceleration of Broadband Deployment: Expanding the Reach and Reducing the Cost of Broadband Deployment by Improving Policies Regarding Public Rights of Way and Wireless Facilities Siting; 2012 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations*, WT Docket Nos. 13-238, 13-32, WC Docket No. 11-59, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, 28 FCC Rcd 14238 (2013).

<sup>4</sup> Remarks of Commissioner Ajit Pai at PCIA’s 2014 Wireless Infrastructure Show (May 20, 2014), <http://go.usa.gov/NXNQ>.