

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Amendment of Parts 74, 76 and 78 of the Commission's Rules Regarding Maintenance of Copies of FCC Rules*, MB Docket No. 17-231; *Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative*, MB Docket No. 17-105.

Today's *Notice* is the first outgrowth of the *Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative* the FCC launched in May. It will be far from the last. The strong public input we received highlighted numerous media regulations that are outdated or unnecessary. So going forward, the Commission will issue at least one *Notice* each month proposing to modify or eliminate these rules.

We start here with rules that many were surprised to learn are still on the books—literally.

Today, many of us have swapped traditional paperback books for Kindles, mixtapes for streaming services, and thick Sunday morning newspapers for their online equivalents. In doing so, we realize daily the benefits and efficiencies new technologies can provide.

The FCC should enable those it regulates to do the same by keeping its rules up to date to reflect the times. This *Notice* proposes to do just that. We seek to eliminate rules implemented more than 40 years ago that require certain broadcast and cable entities to maintain hard copies of portions of the FCC's regulations. These rules were initially put in place to ensure that these entities could easily access and stay familiar with those regulations. But now that all of this is readily available online, many see these requirements as outdated and unnecessary. We're inclined to agree.

Under our proposal, licensees would still have to remain familiar with the rules. They'd simply be given the option of doing so online, and wouldn't be mandated to maintain paper copies that hardly anybody uses anymore. Every dollar that broadcast and cable entities don't have to spend keeping paper copies of something that's an Internet search away can be spent on providing better service to the public.

Thank you to Michelle Carey, Martha Heller, Mary Beth Murphy, and Raelynn Remy of the Media Bureau for your work on this *Notice*, and thank you in advance for your work on the many *Notices* to come as we go about modernizing our media regulations.