

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Encouraging the Provision of New Technologies and Services to the Public*, GN Docket No. 18-22

Section 7 of the Communications Act was passed by Congress and signed into law by President Reagan in 1983. It instructs the FCC to respond within one year to applications proposing new technologies or services.

Unfortunately, and to the detriment of both innovators and consumers, the Commission has not established any guidelines or rules in the three-and-a-half decades since to implement this future-focused tool.

In my first major policy address as Chairman, I promised to eliminate unnecessary barriers to technological innovation. And bureaucratic inertia can often be one of those barriers. So today, we're proposing clear guidelines and procedures to implement section 7. Our goal is simple: to ensure that the FCC doesn't stand as a gatekeeper between entrepreneurs who need our OK for new technologies and services and American consumers who can benefit from those innovations.

Under my leadership, the FCC has taken a series of steps to promote technological progress. From approving the first LTE-U devices to signing off on the next-generation broadcast television standard to green-lighting a power-at-a-distance wireless charging transmitter, we've stood on the side of innovation. And by putting in place procedures to give life to section 7, we will help ensure that the FCC is an ally to entrepreneurs in the years to come.

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