



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Ralph Abraham  
U.S. House of Representatives  
417 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Abraham:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

We have taken concrete steps to facilitate more expeditious deployment of interdiction systems, and there are signs that interest in these solutions is growing. More importantly, we continue our efforts to push for even better procedures and solutions for this very serious problem. Commission staff are actively engaged with state and local law enforcement and corrections officials, officials from the federal Bureau of Prisons, representatives from the Justice Department, and representatives from industry to hear their concerns, learn from their experiences, and facilitate discussions seeking effective, efficient solutions to address the problem of contraband wireless devices in prisons. Moreover, I am happy to have the Commission try to facilitate a meeting among corrections officials, representatives of major cellular providers, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation within the next 120 days and will report back to you after the meeting occurs.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Robert B. Aderholt  
U.S. House of Representatives  
235 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Aderholt:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Rick Allen  
U.S. House of Representatives  
426 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Allen:

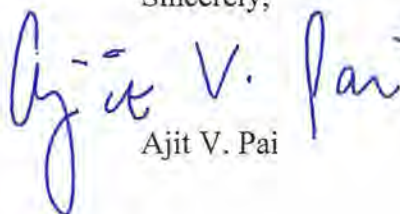
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Lou Barletta  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2049 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Barletta:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Diane Black  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1131 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Black:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2266 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Blackburn:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1011 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brady:

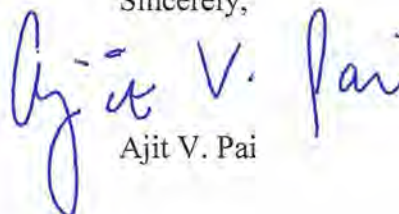
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Dave Brat  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1628 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brat:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Mo Brooks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2400 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brooks:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Anthony G. Brown  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1505 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brown:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Bradley Byrne  
U.S. House of Representatives  
119 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Byrne:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Earl L. Carter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
432 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carter:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

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WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Steve Chabot  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2371 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Chabot:

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October 24, 2017

The Honorable Tom Cole  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2467 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cole:

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October 24, 2017

The Honorable Rick Crawford  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2422 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crawford:

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October 24, 2017

The Honorable John Culberson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2161 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

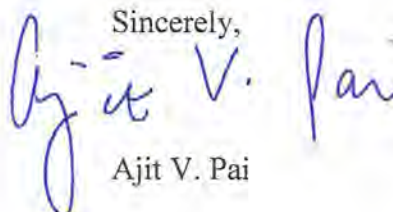
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Sincerely,  
  
Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Duncan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2229 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Duncan:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Chuck Fleischmann  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2410 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Fleischmann:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Trent Franks  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2435 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Franks:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Louie Gohmert  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2243 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Gohmert:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Paul Gosar  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2057 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gosar:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Trey Gowdy  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2418 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Gowdy:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Lindsey Graham  
United States Senate  
290 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Graham:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Andy Harris  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1533 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Harris:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2235 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

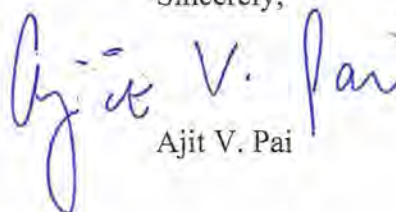
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Bill Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1710 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Mike Johnson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
327 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Johnson:

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I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Steve King  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2210 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman King:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable David Kustoff  
U.S. House of Representatives  
508 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kustoff:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Doug LaMalfa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
322 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman LaMalfa:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable John B. Larson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1501 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Larson:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Barry Loudermilk  
U.S. House of Representatives  
329 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Loudermilk:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

We have taken concrete steps to facilitate more expeditious deployment of interdiction systems, and there are signs that interest in these solutions is growing. More importantly, we continue our efforts to push for even better procedures and solutions for this very serious problem. Commission staff are actively engaged with state and local law enforcement and corrections officials, officials from the federal Bureau of Prisons, representatives from the Justice Department, and representatives from industry to hear their concerns, learn from their experiences, and facilitate discussions seeking effective, efficient solutions to address the problem of contraband wireless devices in prisons. Moreover, I am happy to have the Commission try to facilitate a meeting among corrections officials, representatives of major cellular providers, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation within the next 120 days and will report back to you after the meeting occurs.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Ralph Norman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2350 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Norman:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Pete Olson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2133 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Gary Palmer  
U.S. House of Representatives  
330 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Palmer:

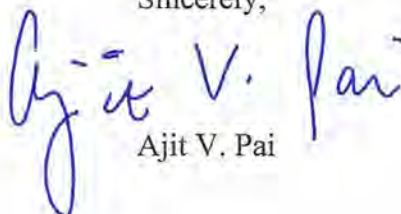
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Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Scott Perry  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1207 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Perry:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Robert Pittenger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
224 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pittenger:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable John Ratcliffe  
U.S. House of Representatives  
325 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ratcliffe:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Tom Rice  
U.S. House of Representatives  
223 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rice:

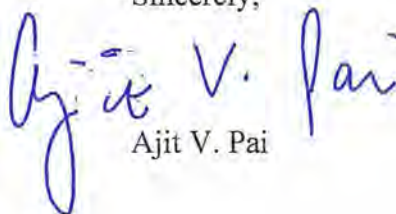
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Martha Roby  
U.S. House of Representatives  
442 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roby:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai





OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Phil Roe  
U.S. House of Representatives  
336 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Roe:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Mike D. Rogers  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2184 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rogers:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable C.A. Dutch Ruppertsberger  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2416 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruppertsberger:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Mark Sanford  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2211 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sanford:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Tim Scott  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Scott:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Jim Sensenbrenner  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2449 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Sensenbrenner:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Terri A. Sewell  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2201 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sewell:

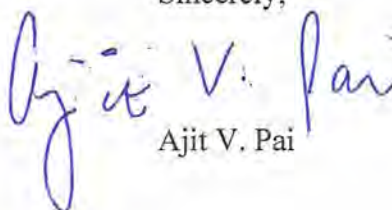
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We have taken concrete steps to facilitate more expeditious deployment of interdiction systems, and there are signs that interest in these solutions is growing. More importantly, we continue our efforts to push for even better procedures and solutions for this very serious problem. Commission staff are actively engaged with state and local law enforcement and corrections officials, officials from the federal Bureau of Prisons, representatives from the Justice Department, and representatives from industry to hear their concerns, learn from their experiences, and facilitate discussions seeking effective, efficient solutions to address the problem of contraband wireless devices in prisons. Moreover, I am happy to have the Commission try to facilitate a meeting among corrections officials, representatives of major cellular providers, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation within the next 120 days and will report back to you after the meeting occurs.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Richard C. Shelby  
United States Senate  
304 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shelby:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Luther Strange  
United States Senate  
326 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Strange:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Daniel Webster  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1210 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Webster:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Joe Wilson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1436 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Wilson:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Ted Yoho  
U.S. House of Representatives  
511 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yoho:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concerns about public safety and the exploitation of contraband cellphones in prisons.

I share your concerns about the proliferation of contraband wireless devices in prisons and the potentially devastating implications for public safety. That is why I led a field hearing in Columbia, South Carolina in April 2016 to bring together a broad group of stakeholders, including prison and state law enforcement officials and industry representatives, to discuss possible solutions to this problem. That is also why one of my first actions as Chairman was to ask my colleagues to approve new measures streamlining procedures to get contraband interdiction systems into prisons and compelling mobile service providers to negotiate in good faith with parties seeking to deploy those systems in a correctional facility. Under my leadership, the Commission also named a special ombudsperson to serve as a central point of contact on contraband device issues.

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