

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-0909

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September 21, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Received & Inspected  
OCT 11 2017  
FCC Mail Room

**Re- Emergency Broadcasting on Cellular FM Chips During Emergencies**

Dear Chairman Pai,

I urge your full and fair consideration in modifying existing rules to make it mandatory to turn on the radio chips found in cellular devices for emergency broadcasting during disaster events like hurricanes or wildfires.

As you likely know, all cellular devices are equipped with FM radio chips but cellular carriers turn them off. Given the existing technological capacity and the pre-existing infrastructure of the emergency broadcasting system, citizens should be able to receive emergency broadcast transmissions during declared emergencies—times when receiving accurate emergency information and instructions is of paramount importance. Access to such instructions may be impaired during power outages or other communicative interruptions, a person may only have their personal cellular device to receive timely and accurate information. Therefore, FM chip access is a pragmatic and low-cost solution for people to receive emergency information during crisis periods. It merits further consideration in the wake of several recent declared emergencies.

I fully acknowledge the scope concern and would suggest a narrowly tailored rule, applying only to limited situations and certain types of transmissions (i.e. for emergencies and for the emergency broadcasting transmission).

I urge your full and fair consideration to make it mandatory to turn on cellular phone radio chips for emergency broadcasting during declared disaster events. I thank you for your consideration. Please contact my office know if any additional information would be helpful.

Sincerely,



Darren Soto  
Member of Congress