



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 16, 2017

The Honorable Ron Johnson  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Johnson:

On September 19, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *Broadband: Additional Stakeholder Input Could Inform FCC Actions to Promote Competition*, GAO -17-742.<sup>1</sup> In the Report, GAO recommends that the FCC annually solicit and report on stakeholder input regarding: (1) FCC actions to promote broadband competition and (2) how varying levels of broadband deployment affect prices and service quality.

My view is that the FCC should be aggressively seeking to remove barriers to broadband deployment because facilities-based competition is the surest way to provide consumers with more choices and better value. To that end, soon after becoming chairman we chartered the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC) which is tasked with recommending ways to bring down barriers to deployment. The BDAC is bringing together experts from consumer groups, state and local government, and industry to advise the FCC on the best path forward. I'm pleased that on November 9, 2017 the BDAC adopted its first set of recommendations and will continue to meet in the coming months to develop additional solutions.

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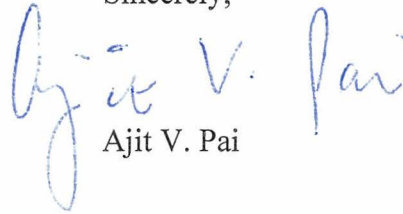
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Page 2—The Honorable Ron Johnson

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the GAO Report and I would be happy to discuss this issue further if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable John Thune



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 16, 2017

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Quigley:

On September 19, 2017, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) publicly released a report entitled *Broadband: Additional Stakeholder Input Could Inform FCC Actions to Promote Competition*, GAO -17-742.<sup>1</sup> In the Report, GAO recommends that the FCC annually solicit and report on stakeholder input regarding: (1) FCC actions to promote broadband competition and (2) how varying levels of broadband deployment affect prices and service quality.

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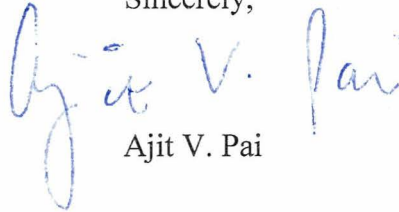
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November 16, 2017

The Honorable Tom Graves  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
U.S. House of Representatives  
B-300 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves:

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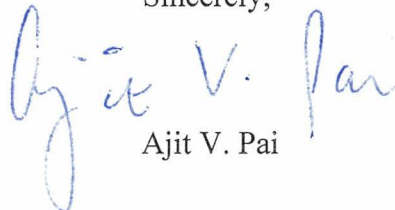
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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November 16, 2017

The Honorable Chris Coons  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Congressman Coons:

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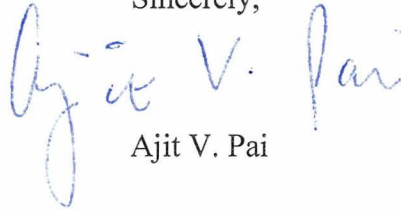
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 16, 2017

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Chairwoman  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
Committee on Appropriations  
United States Senate  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairwoman Capito:

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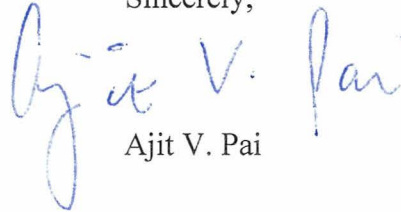
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Page 2—The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito

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Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
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Washington, D.C. 20510

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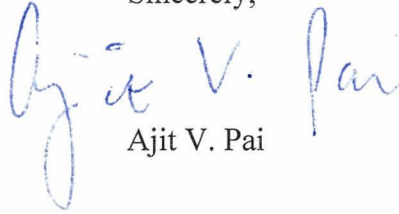
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United States Senate  
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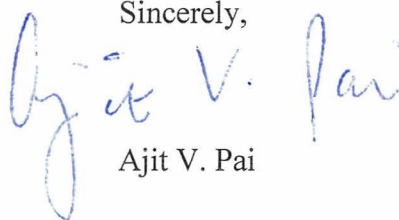
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November 16, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

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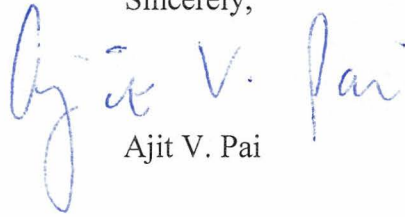
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November 16, 2017

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
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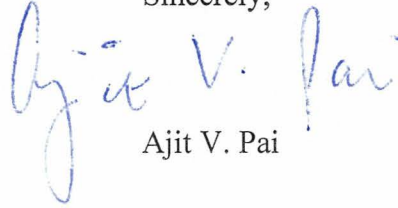
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November 16, 2017

The Honorable Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
442 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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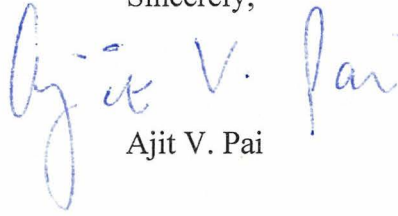
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Chairman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
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In April 2017, we also initiated wireless and wireline rulemakings focused on accelerating broadband infrastructure deployment. These are currently open proceedings which I expect will result in a series of Commission orders promoting investment. As these actions begin to be implemented, I would expect consumers would reap the benefits in the form of greater choice and better value. I look forward to seeing this reflected in some of the data the Commission continues to collect.

Lastly, on September 1, 2017, the Chiefs of the Wireline Competition Bureau and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau provided a letter in response to the draft GAO Report. As detailed in that letter, the Commission plans to seek comment on the topics identified in the GAO Report recommendations in appropriate Commission proceedings.<sup>2</sup> I intend to ensure that we follow through on implementing these actions.

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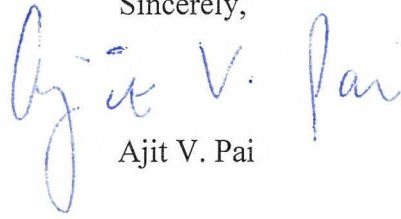
<sup>1</sup> GAO, *Broadband: Additional Stakeholder Input Could Inform FCC Action to Promote Competition*, GAO -17-742 (GAO Report), available at <https://www.gao.gov/products/GAO-17-742>.

<sup>2</sup> GAO Report at 34-35.

Page 2—The Honorable Trey Gowdy

I appreciate the opportunity to respond to the GAO Report and I would be happy to discuss this issue further if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a long tail on the 'i'.

Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable John Thune



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 16, 2017

The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2471 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cummings:

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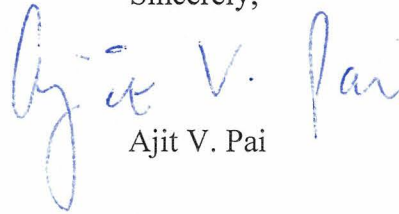
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Page 2—The Honorable Elijah E. Cummings

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'A' and a distinct 'Pai' at the end.

Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable John Thune