



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to assist with the recovery and restoration of Puerto Rico following the devastating 2017 hurricane season. I recently returned from the territory, having seen the devastation and rebuilding efforts firsthand.

Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, more than 95% of cell sites were knocked out of service in Puerto Rico. Accordingly, in October, the FCC unanimously voted to provide carriers with up to seven months of their normal federal support in advance—in a lump sum—to help them repair networks and restore service to customers. Since then, substantial progress has been made, with only 4.3% of cell sites reported as out of service.

The Commission has continued to coordinate with the Puerto Rico Telecommunications Regulatory Board (PRTRB) in the months since Hurricane Maria made impact. To this end, as mentioned above, I visited Puerto Rico in November and again in early March. During my second visit, alongside PRTRB President Sandra Torres Lopez and others from the PRTRB, I toured the rural community of Utuado, which had suffered significant damage from Hurricane Maria. And earlier this month, PRTRB President Torres and other agency officials visited FCC headquarters in Washington to meet with me and other Commission staff.

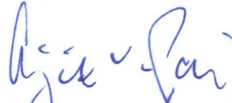
Despite the progress to date, there is still much work to do, as too many still lack connectivity and basic infrastructure. A major problem in Puerto Rico is that a fair amount of wired infrastructure has been completely destroyed. Replacing it is hard and expensive. That's why last month, I proposed to establish the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund (Bringing Puerto Rico Together Fund). This \$750 million Fund will promote both the efficient, short-term restoration of service and the long-term improvement and expansion of broadband throughout Puerto Rico. I hope my colleagues will soon express their support for this effort; with hurricane season less than two months away, time is of the essence.

Puerto Rico faces challenges as it recovers from last year's hurricane season, but its residents are incredibly strong and resilient. The FCC will continue to stand with them throughout the recovery and restoration process.

Page 2—The Honorable Bill Nelson

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



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April 27, 2018

The Honorable Marco Rubio
United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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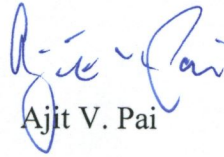
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Page 2—The Honorable Marco Rubio

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A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" and last name "Pai" clearly legible.

Ajit V. Pai