

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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October 17, 2017

Received & Inspected

OCT 23 2017

FCC Mailroom

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Chairman Pai,

On behalf of the free over-the-air local television broadcasters serving local communities in Arizona, we would like to address a major concern regarding the displacement of translators after the Spectrum Auction conducted by the Federal Communications Commission in March of this year.

Vast tracks of Arizona lack a local station and are therefore accessible only via digital over-the-air-transmission. The areas covered by these translators include Arizona's rural communities and tribal nations where many cannot afford or do not have access to broadband, cable or satellite services. While this leaves many with the inconvenience of not having news, sports, weather and other basic broadcasting, it also presents a dangerous situation in which these communities are unable to receive critical emergency notifications for things like wildfires, flash floods or Amber Alerts.

There are countless television translator stations serving thousands of rural Americans throughout the western states which may be adversely impacted by this proceeding. As the Commission works to repack its stations in a circumscribed way, it should ensure that the needs of the rural areas it serves are taken into full consideration.

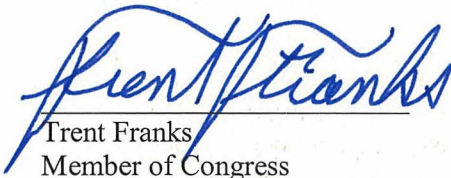
Respectfully,



Paul A. Gosar, D.D.S.
Member of Congress



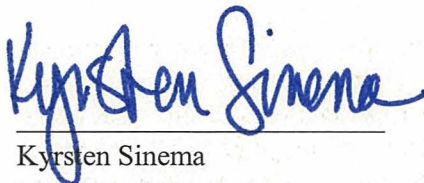
Tom O'Halleran
Member of Congress



Trent Franks
Member of Congress



Raúl M. Grijalva
Member of Congress



Kyrsten Sinema
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 20, 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 concern about the potential displacement of TV translator stations resulting from the Broadcast Incentive Auction.

The Commission has recognized that secondary low power TV (LPTV) and TV translator stations—including small, minority-owned, and niche stations—provide an important service upon which viewers rely, particularly in rural communities. Because the Spectrum Act did not explicitly protect LPTV and TV translator stations in the repacking process where, post-auction, there is now a smaller TV band, we have taken an array of proactive steps to ensure that as many of these stations as possible remain on the air so that they continue to reach viewers.

The Commission modified multiple rules to allow LPTV and TV translator stations to “share” a channel. In other words, two or more stations can use the same channel at the same time, sharing with other LPTV and TV translator stations or with full power and Class A stations. These rules provide a new opportunity for LPTV and TV translator stations that are impacted by repacking displacement to continue broadcasting.

The Commission also adopted rules allowing LPTV and TV translator stations operating on channels being repurposed for 600 MHz wireless services to remain on their channels after the auction unless and until new wireless providers notify these stations that they are ready to commence operations, which in some instances may be several years from now.

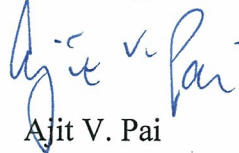
We have also outlined in detail all of the procedures LPTV and TV translator stations may avail themselves of during the post-auction transition. The Commission will open a special window for LPTV and TV translator stations displaced by the auction in which they can apply to switch to any open channels. Before the window opens we will publicly release data to help stations identify potential new channels in the repacked TV band. To further ensure the utility of the special displacement window and the data available to LPTV and TV translator stations, we are temporarily lifting a freeze on station modifications that had been in effect since before the incentive auction. Temporarily lifting the freeze prior to the special displacement window—rather than afterward—gives LPTV and TV translator stations additional assurance that they will not be displaced from their post-auction channel assignment in the near future.

We have separately provided guidance for those stations that are asked to move by new 600 MHz wireless licensees in advance of the special displacement window. It is worth noting that, in such cases, one auction winner has agreed to fund translator channel moves for all PBS-affiliated translators as well as any low power station that requires both a temporary channel move before the filing window and a permanent move as a result of a filing in the window.

Finally, the Commission has extended the deadline for analog LPTV and TV translator stations to complete their transition to digital service from September 1, 2015 to July 13, 2021—12 months after the completion of the 39-month repacking period. This extension prevents a station from spending large sums of money on new digital facilities before knowing whether it will be displaced by the auction repacking process.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. 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

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Kyrsten Sinema
U.S. House of Representatives
1725 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Sinema:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern about the potential displacement of TV translator stations resulting from the Broadcast Incentive Auction.

The Commission has recognized that secondary low power TV (LPTV) and TV translator stations—including small, minority-owned, and niche stations—provide an important service upon which viewers rely, particularly in rural communities. Because the Spectrum Act did not explicitly protect LPTV and TV translator stations in the repacking process where, post-auction, there is now a smaller TV band, we have taken an array of proactive steps to ensure that as many of these stations as possible remain on the air so that they continue to reach viewers.

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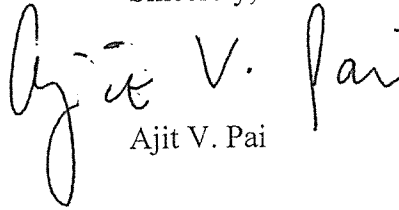
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Tom O'Halleran
U.S. House of Representatives
126 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman O'Halleran:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern about the potential displacement of TV translator stations resulting from the Broadcast Incentive Auction.

The Commission has recognized that secondary low power TV (LPTV) and TV translator stations—including small, minority-owned, and niche stations—provide an important service upon which viewers rely, particularly in rural communities. Because the Spectrum Act did not explicitly protect LPTV and TV translator stations in the repacking process where, post-auction, there is now a smaller TV band, we have taken an array of proactive steps to ensure that as many of these stations as possible remain on the air so that they continue to reach viewers.

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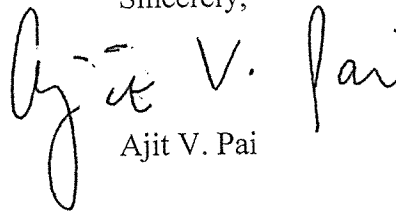
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 20, 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 concern about the potential displacement of TV translator stations resulting from the Broadcast Incentive Auction.

The Commission has recognized that secondary low power TV (LPTV) and TV translator stations—including small, minority-owned, and niche stations—provide an important service upon which viewers rely, particularly in rural communities. Because the Spectrum Act did not explicitly protect LPTV and TV translator stations in the repacking process where, post-auction, there is now a smaller TV band, we have taken an array of proactive steps to ensure that as many of these stations as possible remain on the air so that they continue to reach viewers.

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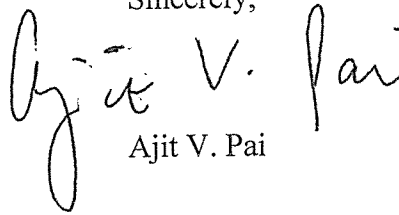
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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 20, 2017

The Honorable Raúl M. Grijalva
U.S. House of Representatives
1511 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Grijalva:

Thank you for your letter expressing your concern about the potential displacement of TV translator stations resulting from the Broadcast Incentive Auction.

The Commission has recognized that secondary low power TV (LPTV) and TV translator stations—including small, minority-owned, and niche stations—provide an important service upon which viewers rely, particularly in rural communities. Because the Spectrum Act did not explicitly protect LPTV and TV translator stations in the repacking process where, post-auction, there is now a smaller TV band, we have taken an array of proactive steps to ensure that as many of these stations as possible remain on the air so that they continue to reach viewers.

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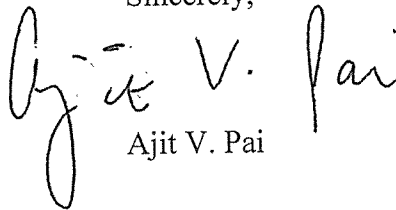
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