



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

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 November 14, the Government Accountability Office publicly released a report entitled *Tribal Broadband: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum*. The Report examines Tribal entities' ability to obtain and access spectrum to provide broadband services, deployment barriers that may exist, and the extent to which the FCC promotes and supports Tribal efforts to obtain and access spectrum.

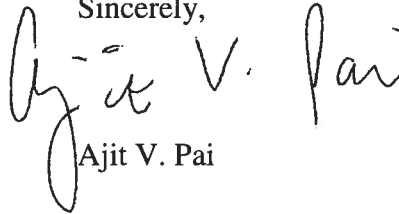
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In their response to the draft report, the Chiefs of the FCC's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau noted that the Commission has taken a variety of actions to increase Tribal access to and use of spectrum, including various rulemakings, outreach, and training efforts. The Bureaus' response also explained the Commission's plans for addressing the recommendations.

I share your interest in ensuring that we do all we can to bring broadband services to Tribal lands, including by making spectrum available to Tribal entities. Closing the digital divide is my top priority, and nowhere is that divide more starkly illustrated than on Tribal lands. I have instructed the Bureau Chiefs to follow through on the steps identified in their response: (1) to consider ways to collect data on the extent to which Tribal entities are obtaining and accessing spectrum, including updating application forms to provide for voluntary submission of information; (2) to take a sample of spectrum licenses on Tribal lands and analyze that data to inform our spectrum policies; and (3) to continue outreach and educational efforts toward Tribal entities while we transition to a more user-friendly licensing platform. Please know that the FCC's staff are always available to assist Tribes in obtaining information.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the GAO Report and reiterate my commitment to promoting broadband availability to all Americans, including on Tribal lands. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable John Hoeven
 The Honorable Tom Udall
 The Honorable John Barrasso
 The Honorable Maria Cantwell
 The Honorable Steve Daines
 The Honorable Martin Heinrich
 The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
 The Honorable Jon Tester



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

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

Dear Ranking Member McCaskill:

On November 14, the Government Accountability Office publicly released a report entitled *Tribal Broadband: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum*. The Report examines Tribal entities' ability to obtain and access spectrum to provide broadband services, deployment barriers that may exist, and the extent to which the FCC promotes and supports Tribal efforts to obtain and access spectrum.

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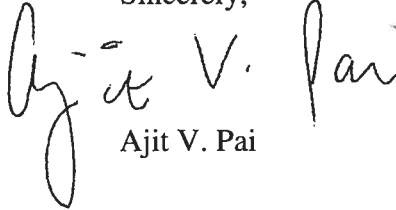
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

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 Ranking Member Cummings:

On November 14, the Government Accountability Office publicly released a report entitled *Tribal Broadband: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum*. The Report examines Tribal entities' ability to obtain and access spectrum to provide broadband services, deployment barriers that may exist, and the extent to which the FCC promotes and supports Tribal efforts to obtain and access spectrum.

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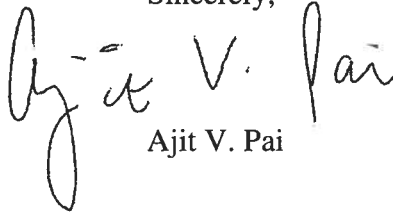
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

The Honorable James Lankford
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
United States Senate
131 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Lankford:

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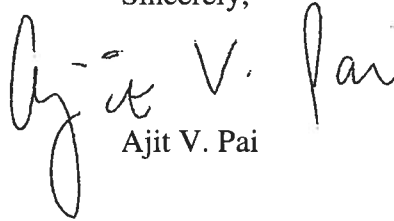
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

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 Ranking Member Coons:

On November 14, the Government Accountability Office publicly released a report entitled *Tribal Broadband: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum*. The Report examines Tribal entities' ability to obtain and access spectrum to provide broadband services, deployment barriers that may exist, and the extent to which the FCC promotes and supports Tribal efforts to obtain and access spectrum.

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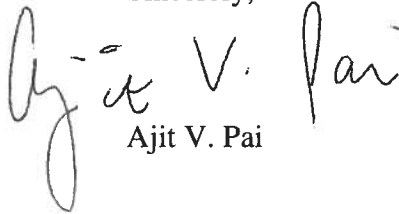
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The Honorable Jon Tester



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Tom Graves
Chairman
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government
Committee on Appropriations
U.S. House of Representatives
2000 Rayburn House Office Building (G Floor)
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Graves:

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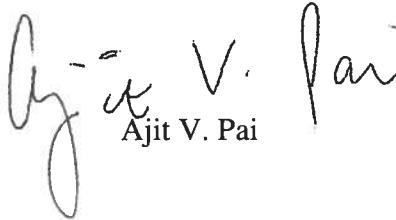
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The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable Martin Heinrich
The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
The Honorable Jon Tester



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

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

Dear Ranking Member Quigley:

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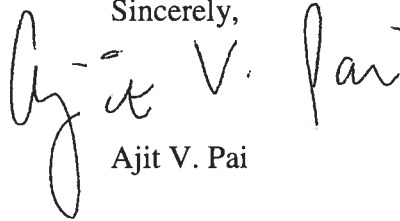
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The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
The Honorable Jon Tester



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Trey Gowdy
Chairman
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform
U.S. House of Representatives
2157 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Gowdy:

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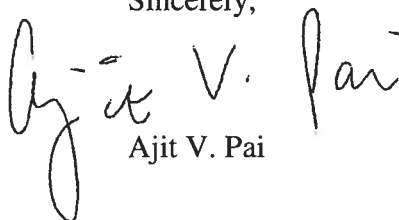
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

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

Dear Chairman Walden:

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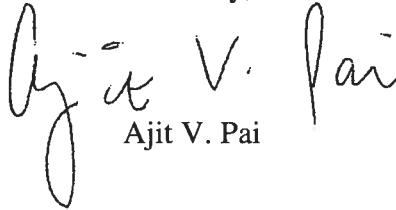
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December 27, 2018

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Ranking Member Pallone:

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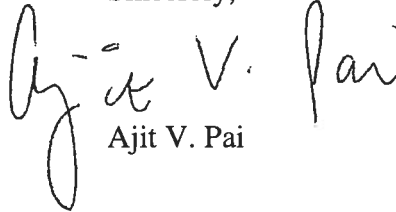
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I share your interest in ensuring that we do all we can to bring broadband services to Tribal lands, including by making spectrum available to Tribal entities. Closing the digital divide is my top priority, and nowhere is that divide more starkly illustrated than on Tribal lands. I have instructed the Bureau Chiefs to follow through on the steps identified in their response: (1) to consider ways to collect data on the extent to which Tribal entities are obtaining and accessing spectrum, including updating application forms to provide for voluntary submission of information; (2) to take a sample of spectrum licenses on Tribal lands and analyze that data to inform our spectrum policies; and (3) to continue outreach and educational efforts toward Tribal entities while we transition to a more user-friendly licensing platform. Please know that the FCC's staff are always available to assist Tribes in obtaining information.

I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the GAO Report and reiterate my commitment to promoting broadband availability to all Americans, including on Tribal lands. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part, followed by "V." and "Pai".

Ajit V. Pai

cc: The Honorable John Hoeven
The Honorable Tom Udall
The Honorable John Barrasso
The Honorable Maria Cantwell
The Honorable Steve Daines
The Honorable Martin Heinrich
The Honorable Heidi Heitkamp
The Honorable Jon Tester



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

The Honorable John Thune
Chairman
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Thune:

On November 14, the Government Accountability Office publicly released a report entitled *Tribal Broadband: FCC Should Undertake Efforts to Better Promote Tribal Access to Spectrum*. The Report examines Tribal entities' ability to obtain and access spectrum to provide broadband services, deployment barriers that may exist, and the extent to which the FCC promotes and supports Tribal efforts to obtain and access spectrum.

The Report makes three recommendations for executive action. *First*, the Report recommends that the FCC collect data on the extent that Tribal entities are obtaining and accessing spectrum and use this information as the FCC implements ongoing spectrum initiatives. *Second*, the Report recommends that the FCC analyze these data to better understand the extent that unused spectrum licenses exist over Tribal lands, such as by analyzing the data for a sample of Tribal lands, and use this information as appropriate to inform the FCC's oversight of the secondary market. *Third*, the Report recommends that the FCC make information on spectrum-license holders more accessible for interested parties, including Tribal entities, to promote their ability to purchase or lease spectrum licenses from other providers.

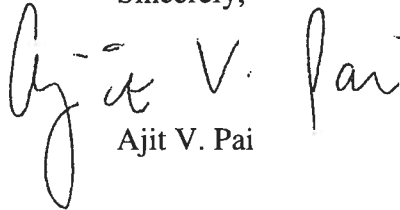
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Page 2—The Honorable John Thune

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 27, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
425 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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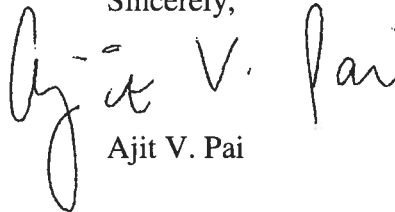
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