

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

929

December 10, 2018

Mr. Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

In September of last year, we wrote, as Co-Chairs of the Congressional Deaf Caucus, to encourage the Commission to issue an NPRM regarding a petition for rulemaking to change the contribution methodology for the TRS Fund (CG Docket No. 03-123) that was widely supported by the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities. In June of this year, the FCC issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CG Docket Nos 13-24, 03-123) in order to, among other things, address the issues underlying that petition and shore up that fund. We applaud your efforts in taking on such an important matter.

As you're aware, formal comments and reply comments have now been filed in that docket, and we are encouraged that once again the Deaf and Hard of Hearing communities have weighed-in heavily in favor of changing that contribution methodology to allow intrastate TRS revenue to be included along with interstate revenue to size contributions to the TRS fund.¹ We were pleased to see considerable support in the record for such a solution, including continuing support from the Deaf community.

We encourage you to ensure that FCC rules and policies address the needs of the Deaf community and that the TRS Fund contribution methodology strengthens the fund and protects it from future erosion or budget gamesmanship.

Sincerely,



Kevin Yoder
Member of Congress



Mark Takano
Member of Congress

¹ See, Comments of Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA), Telecommunications for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (TDI), National Association of the Deaf (NAD), Association of Late Deafened Adults (ALDA), Cerebral Palsy and Deaf Organization (CPADO), American Association of the Deaf-Blind (AADB), Deaf Seniors of America (DAS), California Coalition of Agencies Serving the Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Inc. (CCASDHH), Deaf and Hard of Hearing Consumer Advocacy Network (DHHCAN), Deaf/Hard of Hearing Technology Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center (DHH-RERC), Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Universal Interface & Information Technology Access (IT-RERC) in CG Docket Nos. 13-24 and 03-123, filed September 17, 2018.



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Kevin Yoder
U.S. House of Representatives
2433 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Yoder:

Thank you for your letter applauding the Commission's June 8, 2018 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on the Internet Protocol Captioned Telephone Service (IP CTS). As you note, that Notice sought comment on expanding the contribution base to include intrastate telecommunications services and intrastate VoIP services to offset the costs of intrastate IP CTS calls—which are currently paid for entirely by the Interstate Telecommunications Relay Service Fund. The comment cycles on the matter have been completed and Commission staff is carefully reviewing the record in the proceeding. I can assure you that we will take into consideration the issues and concerns presented by all stakeholders as the Commission makes every effort to conclude its review as quickly and equitably as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 31, 2018

The Honorable Mark Takano
U.S. House of Representatives
1507 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Takano:

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Ajit V. Pai