

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

December 13, 2018

939

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Received & Inspected

DEC 18 2018

FCC Mailroom

Dear Chairman Pai:

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been hit by two catastrophic weather events in recent months, Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu. In response to these storms I am writing to request the Commission adopt, on an expedited basis, temporary rules to provide immediate relief to Marianas schools and libraries contending with the devastation, as you did in October 2017 in response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria.

President Trump declared major disasters for the Marianas islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota on September 29 and on October 26. Each of the islands suffered widespread destruction of homes, businesses, public facilities, and infrastructure, including landline and wireless telecommunications. Six weeks after Super Typhoon Yutu, only 44% of Saipan was on grid power. Thousands of people remain in temporary shelter. Schools are running double sessions to compensate for campuses lost to the storms.

The rules you adopted in October 2017, FCC-17-139, made available targeted support to schools and libraries that were forced to rebuild facilities and replace equipment damaged by the hurricanes. You provided increased flexibility for eligible services to be restored through service substitutions. You, also, made additional E-rate support available for schools that were incurring additional costs for eligible services because the schools were serving students that had been displaced by the storms.

I ask that you do the same for the Marianas and take any other actions that may be appropriate to assist with recovery efforts.

Should your staff have any questions about this request, please contact Bob Schwalbach, Chief of Staff, at [bob.schwalbach@mail.house.gov](mailto:bob.schwalbach@mail.house.gov) or 202.309.5787.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



GREGORIO KILILI CAMACHO SABLAN  
Member of Congress

Washington, DC Office  
2411 Rayburn HOB  
Washington, DC 20515  
Phone: (202) 225-2646

Saipan Office  
P.O. Box 504879  
Saipan, MP 96950  
(670) 323-2647/8

Rota Office  
P.O. Box 1361  
Rota, MP 96951  
(670) 532-2647

Tinian Office  
P.O. Box 520394  
Tinian, MP 96952  
(670) 433-2647



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

January 2, 2019

The Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2411 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sablan:

Thank you for your letter about the effect that Typhoon Mangkhut and Super Typhoon Yutu have had on infrastructure in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, particularly landline and wireless networks. I share your concern for the residents of the Commonwealth who have suffered during and after these storms.

During my tenure as Chairman, the Federal Communications Commission has spent a great deal of time addressing emergencies such as typhoons and hurricanes. In the wake of Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria, the agency worked collaboratively with federal, state, and territorial partners to advance communications restoration and recovery as quickly as possible. The FCC has also made appropriate regulatory changes to address communications needs in affected areas; as you observed, in October 2017, the agency extended relief under our E-Rate program to schools and libraries located in counties designated by FEMA as eligible for individual disaster assistance and schools incurring additional costs because student counts had increased by 5% or more because they were serving displaced students. I'm pleased to report to you that the FCC will consider similar steps to ensure that the people of the Commonwealth are once again able to rely on the communications networks that are increasingly critical in our daily lives.

I appreciate your getting in touch about this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai

