

# United States Senate

September 19, 2019

686

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

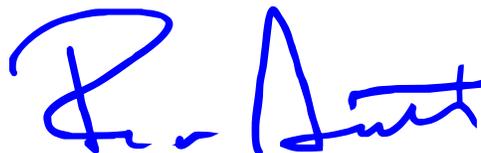
Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to you regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) upcoming review of an expiring license to build the Pacific Light Cable Network from the United States to Hong Kong. According to recent news reports, the U.S. Justice Department has expressed grave concerns about moving forward with renewing the license for this project. I share these concerns, because it threatens the freedom of Hong Kong and our national security.

This project is backed by a Chinese partner, Dr. Peng Telecom & Media Group Co., and would ultimately provide a direct link from China into Hong Kong. We cannot allow this. China has repeatedly shown it cannot be trusted. Even now, they are violating human rights and breaking their agreement to give Hong Kong autonomy and freedom. China continues to steal our technology and intellectual property, is militarizing the South China Sea, violates human rights and supports Maduro's genocide in Venezuela.

We cannot allow China expanded access to critical American information, even if funded by U.S. companies. Doing so would be a serious threat to our national security. I urge the FCC to put American security first, and not renew the license for the Pacific Light Cable Network. Thank you, and I look forward to working with you to continue to keep America's communications networks secure.

Sincerely,



Rick Scott  
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 10, 2019

The Honorable Rick L. Scott  
United States Senate  
716 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

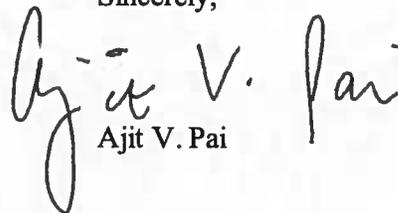
Dear Senator Scott:

Thank you for your letter regarding the pending submarine cable landing license application for the Pacific Light Cable Network – a submarine cable that would link the United States with Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the Philippines. I agree that the Commission has an obligation to review applications to ensure that they do not pose a risk to our national security in an evolving national security environment. Please be assured that the International Bureau is following its normal practice to seek input from the Executive Branch agencies, including Team Telecom, regarding issues of national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy as they relate to specific applications. Your letter will be placed into the record, and a status update regarding the application is below.

Applicants – which include subsidiaries of Google and Facebook, along with the Pacific Light Data Communications Company (PLDC) based in Hong Kong – filed the application on April 21, 2017, followed by four supplements, the last on December 27, 2017. The International Bureau placed the application on Public Notice on October 31, 2017. The December 27, 2017 supplement indicated a major change in ownership of PLDC. On January 25, 2018, the Department of Homeland Security, a member of Team Telecom, requested deferral of Commission action on the application pending completion of Team Telecom's national security review. The application remains under review at this time.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai