

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515-1102**

March 15, 2018

The Honorable Ajit V. Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable William B. Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Chairman Pai and Administrator Long:

To better understand how to protect and inform the American people from natural disasters and other imminent threats, we write to you today to request information on participation by U.S. wireless communications service providers in the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) system.

In the aftermath of the false ballistic missile alert sent out across Hawai'i, we received concerns from a number of constituents who did not receive the initial false alert, nor the correction alert issued 38 minutes later.

Given the severity of these concerns, we respectfully request a response to the following questions:

1. Do the Federal Communications Commission and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency collect data on participation by U.S. wireless communications service providers? If not, why not?
2. Do the Federal Communications Commission and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency maintain a list of non-participating U.S. wireless communications service providers? If so, please provide us with the list.
3. Do the Federal Communications Commission and/or the Federal Emergency Management Agency collect information on capable service areas that participating U.S. wireless communications service providers do not offer WEA service too? If so, please provide us with this information.

Thank you in advance for your prompt attention to this issue. We ask that you respond to our inquiries by March 30, 2018.

Sincerely,



TULSI GABBARD  
Member of Congress



COLLEEN HANABUSA  
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 30, 2018

The Honorable Colleen Hanabusa  
U.S. House of Representatives  
422 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hanabusa:

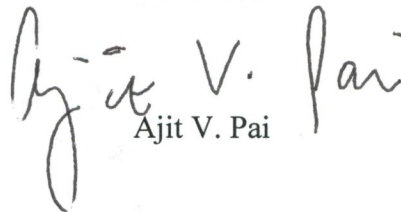
Thank you for your letter inquiring about U.S. wireless service provider participation in the Wireless Emergency Alerts (WEA) system. WEA messages are one of several key tools to warn the public of imminent danger when disaster strikes.

Since 2008, consistent with the Warning, Alert, and Response Network (WARN) Act, the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) has been collecting data from U.S. wireless communications service providers with respect to whether they elect to participate in WEA. Wireless providers file this information publicly with the Commission in PS Docket No. 08-146, and include information regarding whether they elect to participate in whole or in part, or whether they choose not to participate in WEA. The Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau has confirmed for me that AT&T, Sprint, T-Mobile, and Verizon all provide service in Hawaii and have all elected to participate in WEA in part. The Bureau has also confirmed that it is not aware of any eligible wireless provider in Hawaii that has elected not to participate in WEA.

As you know, wireless providers that choose to participate in part have agreed to transmit WEA Alert Messages in some, but not all of their geographic service areas, and to some, but not all of the mobile devices on their network. The Commission does not currently collect information regarding which portions of its geographic coverage area or on which devices the wireless provider does not provide WEA service. Commission rule 10.240 nonetheless requires wireless providers that participate only in part to disclose that WEA messages may not be available in the wireless providers' entire service area or on all its devices and to offer details on the availability of WEA and WEA capable devices via a sales representative or website.

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

Sincerely,

  
Ajit V. Pai





FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 30, 2018

The Honorable Tulsi Gabbard  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1433 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Gabbard:

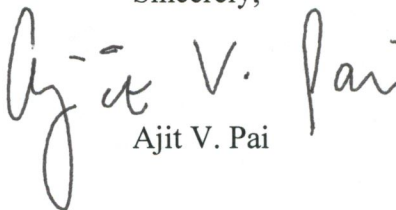
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