

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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February 2, 2018

Received & Inspected
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FCC Mailroom

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
The Honorable Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner
The Honorable Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner
The Honorable Brendan Carr, Commissioner
The Honorable Jessica Rosenworcel, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Chairman and Commissioners:

We write to express our gratitude for the work the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has done to assist with the recovery process in Puerto Rico after Hurricane Maria devastated the island. The restoration of telecommunications infrastructure is critical in order for families and friends on the island to communicate with each other during this difficult time. While the recovery process is ongoing, we urge the FCC to continue to work with the Puerto Rico Telecommunications Regulatory Board (PRTRB) in addressing restoration and connectivity issues across the island.

As you know, Hurricane Maria made landfall more than four months ago, causing unprecedented destruction to the island's telecom infrastructure. Reports indicate that 92 percent of cell sites and 67 percent of wireline services have been restored, but residents still face significant challenges, including data and power outages. The FCC plays a critical role and has the expertise and resources available to assist with the restoration process. In recognizing this, we ask that the FCC coordinate with the PRTRB in deciding how best, and with what resources are appropriate, to restore cable and wireline services to Puerto Rican families.

The ability to communicate with friends and loved ones is critical in the aftermath of a major storm. We strongly urge you to consider the unique challenges residents on the island continue to face, and work closely with the government of Puerto Rico to expedite the restoration of telecommunications services.

Sincerely,



Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator



Bill Nelson
U.S. Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

April 27, 2018

The Honorable Bill Nelson
United States Senate
716 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

Thank you for your letter supporting the Commission's efforts to assist with the recovery and restoration of Puerto Rico following the devastating 2017 hurricane season. I recently returned from the territory, having seen the devastation and rebuilding efforts firsthand.

Following Hurricanes Irma and Maria, more than 95% of cell sites were knocked out of service in Puerto Rico. Accordingly, in October, the FCC unanimously voted to provide carriers with up to seven months of their normal federal support in advance—in a lump sum—to help them repair networks and restore service to customers. Since then, substantial progress has been made, with only 4.3% of cell sites reported as out of service.

The Commission has continued to coordinate with the Puerto Rico Telecommunications Regulatory Board (PRTRB) in the months since Hurricane Maria made impact. To this end, as mentioned above, I visited Puerto Rico in November and again in early March. During my second visit, alongside PRTRB President Sandra Torres Lopez and others from the PRTRB, I toured the rural community of Utuado, which had suffered significant damage from Hurricane Maria. And earlier this month, PRTRB President Torres and other agency officials visited FCC headquarters in Washington to meet with me and other Commission staff.

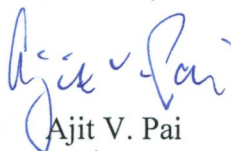
Despite the progress to date, there is still much work to do, as too many still lack connectivity and basic infrastructure. A major problem in Puerto Rico is that a fair amount of wired infrastructure has been completely destroyed. Replacing it is hard and expensive. That's why last month, I proposed to establish the Uniendo a Puerto Rico Fund (Bringing Puerto Rico Together Fund). This \$750 million Fund will promote both the efficient, short-term restoration of service and the long-term improvement and expansion of broadband throughout Puerto Rico. I hope my colleagues will soon express their support for this effort; with hurricane season less than two months away, time is of the essence.

Puerto Rico faces challenges as it recovers from last year's hurricane season, but its residents are incredibly strong and resilient. The FCC will continue to stand with them throughout the recovery and restoration process.

Page 2—The Honorable Bill Nelson

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" and last name "Pai" clearly distinguishable.

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
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United States Senate
284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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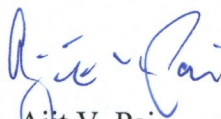
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