

November 15, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

We urge the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to halt its effort to cut off support for low-income, tribal families' phone and internet service through its proposed order to change the Tribal Lands Lifeline Program. For nearly two decades the FCC's tribal Lifeline enhancement has helped underserved families in tribal areas afford phone, and more recently, internet service; the FCC is now considering undoing much of that good work. This action would further disconnect tribal areas, widening the digital divide in tribal communities. Even worse, according to the National Congress of American Indians the FCC failed to engage in meaningful consultation with impacted tribes on these proposed changes to the Lifeline program.

The proposed order would discontinue support for Lifeline recipients served by a wireless reseller, reducing access for thousands of tribal families who rely on the program. In the Tribal Lands Lifeline Program, these resellers offer service to 69 percent of general Lifeline recipients and 76 percent of wireless Lifeline recipients. Enacting an order that could affect a significant number of people with wireless service with such short notice could harm thousands of families, and we urge the Commission not to take this action.

The proposed order would also cut off support for tribal families living in urban areas. Congress codified the Lifeline program to serve low-income individuals everywhere, not just in rural areas. Our nation has a trust responsibility to ensure the cultural survival, well-being, and sovereignty of tribes and tribal members. We urge the Commission to rethink its course of action and honor the federal trust responsibility to tribes whether they live in urban or rural areas.

Finally, this order proposes to require an independent certification that individuals utilizing the Tribal Lands Lifeline Program in fact live on tribal land. While it is intended to improve integrity within the program, this proposal could have detrimental unintended consequences. For instance, many tribal residents use descriptive addresses rather than traditional postal addresses, and this order could punish these deserving tribal residents for following their tribal custom. The FCC

has an obligation to find an alternative way to address this issue without risking Lifeline support for underserved, tribal members.

We are disappointed that the Commission has taken the approach of testing dramatic changes to the Lifeline program on tribal members. We urge the Commission to reconsider this policy experiment and engage in meaningful consultation with tribes before cutting off support for individuals on tribal land. I look forward to hearing from your office. Please contact Ross Arnett at (202) 225 – 5330 in my office if you have additional questions.

Sincerely,



Raul Ruiz, M.D.
Member of Congress



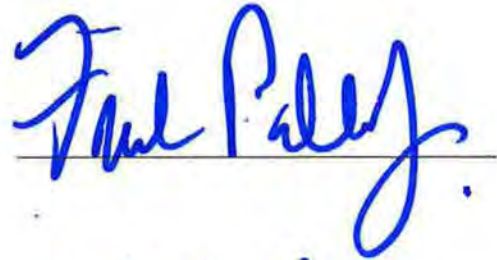
 PA-14

 KY-3

 NV-04

 NM-3


 VA-6



 CA-31

 MN-4

 MI-12

 CA-34

 MI-5

Conrad B. Maloney -
C. S. Neale MA-1

Tony Cardenas CA-29

Patricia A. H. Wick MA-1

Jan Schakowsky IL-9

Jimmy H. McGee IA-9

Katherine Clark MA-5

T. L. P. LA-02

Yvette W. Clarke

Lucille Roybal-Allard

Joselyn Castro TX-20

Thomas R. Suozzi NY-3

Jim Costa CA-20

Dan Claitor FL-9

Paul G. MA-7

Joe Beatty

Marki Waters

Jodie Berne Johnson



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Raul Ruiz
U.S. House of Representatives
1319 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Ruiz:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

Suggestions that the changes in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order* would cut off support to Tribal members living in urban areas are simply false. All eligible Americans who apply will continue to receive support, but that enhanced support will now be tailored to better target those in need. As detailed in the order, the Commission always intended the enhanced support to provide "additional incentives to serve Tribal lands that, due to their extreme geographic remoteness, are sparsely populated and have few businesses." However, about 98% of residents of urban areas—including Tulsa and Reno—already have access to fixed broadband Internet access service at speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps. And these urban population centers are overwhelmingly populated by non-Tribal members. As recognized by former California State Public Utilities Commissioner Catherine Sandoval, "it is not reasonable to give the Enhanced Lifeline support where there is no additional cost to providing service to the eligible tribal customers." And so the Commission, as suggested by the Public Utility Division of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, redirected our enhanced support to "synchronize the support with the most pressing deployment needs."

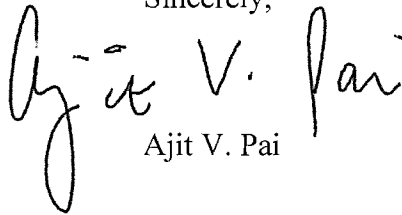
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decision to limited enhanced support to carriers reinvesting in Tribal communities received strong support from many Tribes and those that have built facilities on Tribal lands.

Finally, the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order* recognized that many Tribal residences have not been assigned conventional addresses and instead use descriptive addresses that are not recognized by the U.S. Postal Service. Accordingly, the order specifically found that “a Lifeline subscriber may provide a descriptive address when enrolling in the program.”

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

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Jerry McNerney
U.S. House of Representatives
2265 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McNerney:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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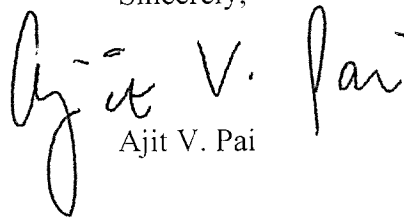
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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Jimmy Panetta
U.S. House of Representatives
228 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Panetta:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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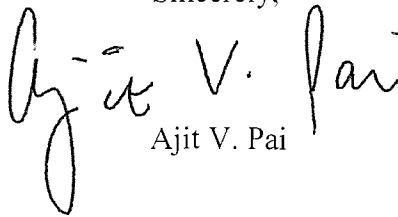
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
U.S. House of Representatives
2413 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman DeLauro:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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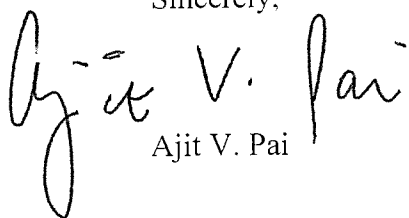
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WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Salud Carbajal
U.S. House of Representatives
212 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Carbajal:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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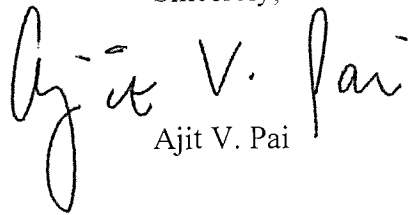
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Frank Pallone
U.S. House of Representatives
237 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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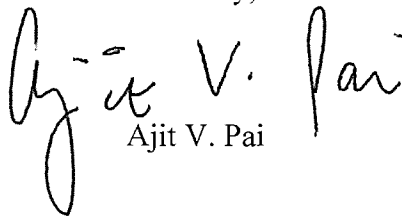
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Michael E. Capuano
U.S. House of Representatives
1414 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Capuano:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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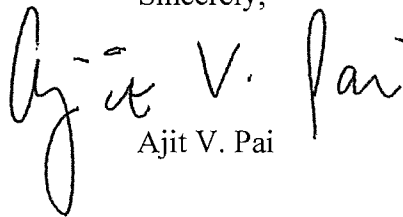
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Ajit V. Pai



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Darren Soto
U.S. House of Representatives
1429 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Soto:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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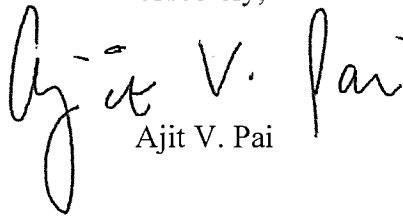
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June 1, 2018

The Honorable Tom Suozzi
U.S. House of Representatives
226 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Suozzi:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

Suggestions that the changes in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order* would cut off support to Tribal members living in urban areas are simply false. All eligible Americans who apply will continue to receive support, but that enhanced support will now be tailored to better target those in need. As detailed in the order, the Commission always intended the enhanced support to provide "additional incentives to serve Tribal lands that, due to their extreme geographic remoteness, are sparsely populated and have few businesses." However, about 98% of residents of urban areas—including Tulsa and Reno—already have access to fixed broadband Internet access service at speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps. And these urban population centers are overwhelmingly populated by non-Tribal members. As recognized by former California State Public Utilities Commissioner Catherine Sandoval, "it is not reasonable to give the Enhanced Lifeline support where there is no additional cost to providing service to the eligible tribal customers." And so the Commission, as suggested by the Public Utility Division of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, redirected our enhanced support to "synchronize the support with the most pressing deployment needs."

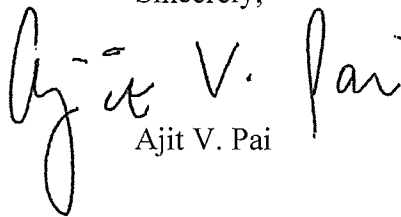
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decision to limited enhanced support to carriers reinvesting in Tribal communities received strong support from many Tribes and those that have built facilities on Tribal lands.

Finally, the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order* recognized that many Tribal residences have not been assigned conventional addresses and instead use descriptive addresses that are not recognized by the U.S. Postal Service. Accordingly, the order specifically found that “a Lifeline subscriber may provide a descriptive address when enrolling in the program.”

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

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Cedric L. Richmond
U.S. House of Representatives
420 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Richmond:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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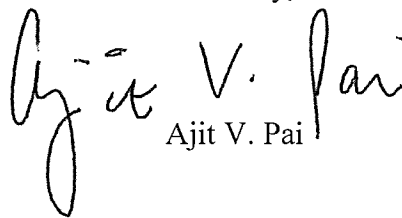
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Richard E. Neal
U.S. House of Representatives
341 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Neal:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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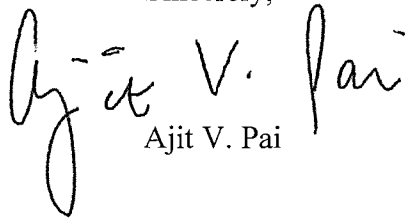
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Eddie Bernice Johnson
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Johnson:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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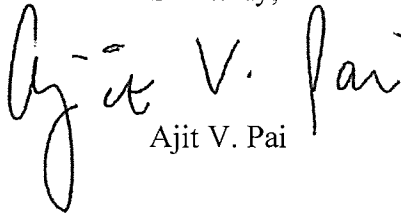
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Maxine Waters
U.S. House of Representatives
2221 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Waters:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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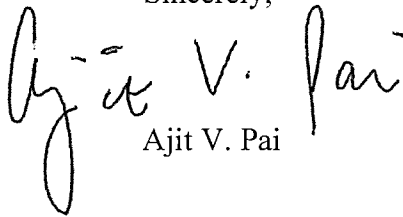
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Joyce Beatty
U.S. House of Representatives
133 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Beatty:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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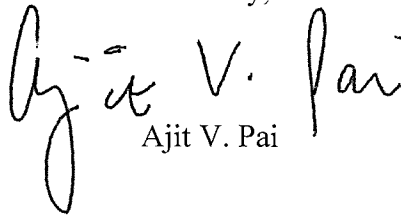
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Joaquin Castro
U.S. House of Representatives
1221 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Castro:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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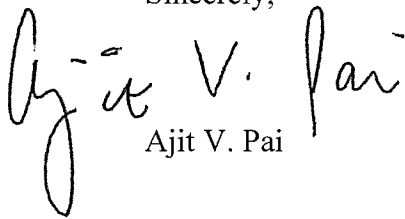
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Lucille Roybal-Allard
U.S. House of Representatives
2083 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Roybal-Allard:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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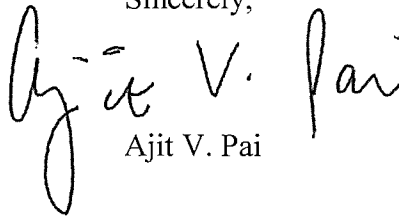
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
U.S. House of Representatives
2058 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clarke:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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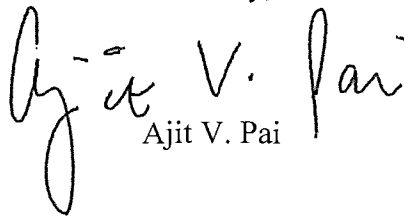
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Katherine M. Clark
U.S. House of Representatives
1415 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Clark:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

Suggestions that the changes in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order* would cut off support to Tribal members living in urban areas are simply false. All eligible Americans who apply will continue to receive support, but that enhanced support will now be tailored to better target those in need. As detailed in the order, the Commission always intended the enhanced support to provide "additional incentives to serve Tribal lands that, due to their extreme geographic remoteness, are sparsely populated and have few businesses." However, about 98% of residents of urban areas—including Tulsa and Reno—already have access to fixed broadband Internet access service at speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps. And these urban population centers are overwhelmingly populated by non-Tribal members. As recognized by former California State Public Utilities Commissioner Catherine Sandoval, "it is not reasonable to give the Enhanced Lifeline support where there is no additional cost to providing service to the eligible tribal customers." And so the Commission, as suggested by the Public Utility Division of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, redirected our enhanced support to "synchronize the support with the most pressing deployment needs."

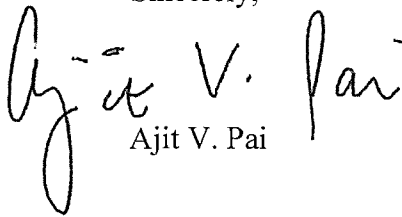
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I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Jan Schakowsky
U.S. House of Representatives
2367 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Schakowsky:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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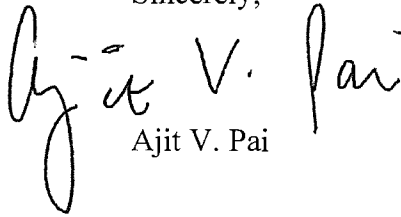
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Tony Cárdenas
U.S. House of Representatives
1510 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cárdenas:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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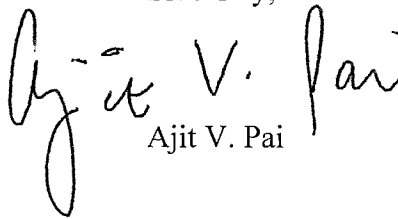
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
U.S. House of Representatives
2308 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Maloney:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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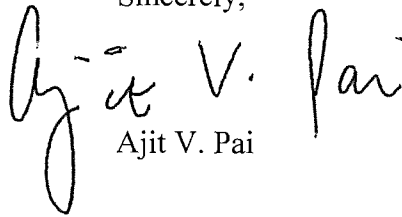
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Dan Kildee
U.S. House of Representatives
227 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kildee:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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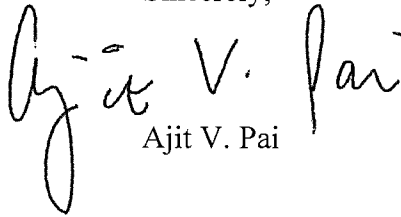
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Gwen Moore
U.S. House of Representatives
2252 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Moore:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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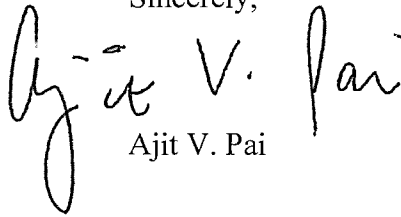
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
U.S. House of Representatives
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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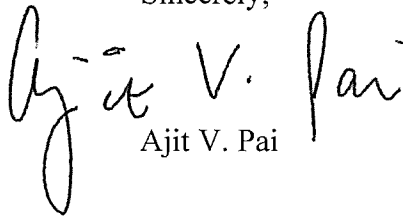
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Betty McCollum
U.S. House of Representatives
2256 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman McCollum:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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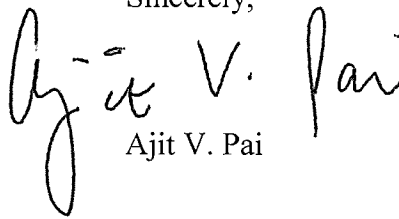
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Pete Aguilar
U.S. House of Representatives
1223 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Aguilar:

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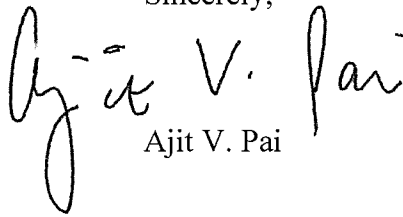
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OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Derek Kilmer
U.S. House of Representatives
1520 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kilmer:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

Suggestions that the changes in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order* would cut off support to Tribal members living in urban areas are simply false. All eligible Americans who apply will continue to receive support, but that enhanced support will now be tailored to better target those in need. As detailed in the order, the Commission always intended the enhanced support to provide "additional incentives to serve Tribal lands that, due to their extreme geographic remoteness, are sparsely populated and have few businesses." However, about 98% of residents of urban areas—including Tulsa and Reno—already have access to fixed broadband Internet access service at speeds of 25 Mbps/3 Mbps. And these urban population centers are overwhelmingly populated by non-Tribal members. As recognized by former California State Public Utilities Commissioner Catherine Sandoval, "it is not reasonable to give the Enhanced Lifeline support where there is no additional cost to providing service to the eligible tribal customers." And so the Commission, as suggested by the Public Utility Division of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, redirected our enhanced support to "synchronize the support with the most pressing deployment needs."

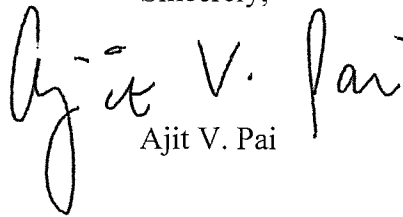
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decision to limited enhanced support to carriers reinvesting in Tribal communities received strong support from many Tribes and those that have built facilities on Tribal lands.

Finally, the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order* recognized that many Tribal residences have not been assigned conventional addresses and instead use descriptive addresses that are not recognized by the U.S. Postal Service. Accordingly, the order specifically found that “a Lifeline subscriber may provide a descriptive address when enrolling in the program.”

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

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Ben Ray Luján
U.S. House of Representatives
2231 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Luján:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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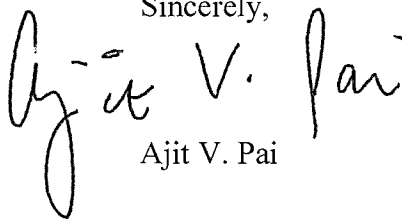
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Ruben Kihuen
U.S. House of Representatives
313 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kihuen:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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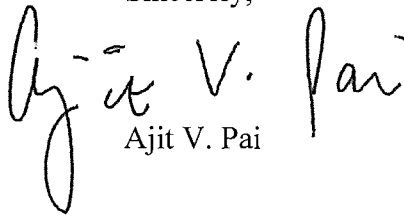
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable John Yarmuth
U.S. House of Representatives
131 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Yarmuth:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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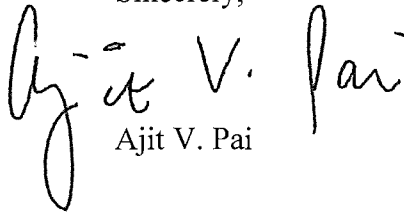
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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Mike Doyle
U.S. House of Representatives
239 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Doyle:

Thank you for your letter concerning the changes to Tribal Lifeline support in the *2017 Lifeline Reform Order*. Closing the digital divide is one of my top priorities. As Chairman, I have participated in three official Tribal consultations, made numerous visits to Tribal communities, and met with Tribal representatives, including the Navajo Nation. During these meetings and visits, I repeatedly heard that rural Tribal communities desperately need broadband investment. The Commission's recent changes to Tribal Lifeline support are designed to incentivize providers to deploy networks on rural Tribal lands and direct Tribal Lifeline support to areas where it is needed most, which in turn will improve the availability and affordability of advanced communications services in rural Tribal areas.

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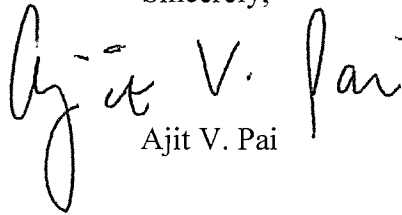
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