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336

COMMITTEES:
APPROPRIATIONS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE
AND TRANSPORTATION

RULES AND
ADMINISTRATION,
CHAIRMAN

SELECT COMMITTEE
ON INTELLIGENCE

April 26, 2018

Received & Inspected

3 2018

FCC Mailroom

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MAY - 3 2018

FCC Mailroom

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

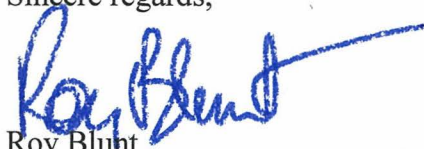
On April 19, 2018, a broadcast tower in Fordland, Missouri collapsed, disabling a broadcast service in southwest Missouri. The tower belongs to Ozark Public Television, a television broadcast station owned by Missouri State University in Springfield, Missouri.

The tower collapse resulted in a loss of service for channel KOZK-21 in Springfield. The collapse occurred during maintenance in preparation for the station's infrastructure changes, in accordance with phase one of the transition schedule for the Broadcast Incentive Auction. The cause is currently unclear, however, I am concerned that this will affect the station's ability to comply with the FCC's Incentive Auction transition schedule, as well as the station's ability to receive reimbursement for their infrastructure moves.

The FCC has worked very closely with broadcasters in Missouri and across the nation to ensure that broadcast facilities are transitioned to new channels as efficiently as possible. I ask that the FCC work directly with Ozark Public Television, Missouri State University, and relevant stakeholders in the Springfield, Missouri community to provide information and resources necessary to mitigate issues related to the tower collapse and the Broadcast Incentive Auction.

I appreciate any assistance that you can provide to the station as it considers options to relocate its physical infrastructure.

Sincere regards,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator

CC: Mr. Donald Stockdale
Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau
Federal Communications Commission



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 8, 2018

The Honorable Roy Blunt
United States Senate
260 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

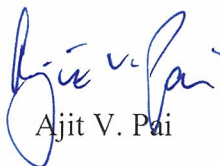
Dear Senator Blunt:

Thank you for your letter regarding the sad case of the broadcast tower collapse in Fordland, Missouri in April. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Commission became aware of this tragic incident through press reports right after it happened. I immediately asked staff to contact the station's trade association, America's Public Television Stations, to assess the situation and offer assistance. Please be assured that Commission staff will continue to support Ozark Public Television, Missouri State University, and the people of the Springfield, Missouri as KOZK-21 evaluates its options, and we will do our best to help mitigate any issues as the station works to rebuild its infrastructure.

I hope this has been helpful. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

Senator, thanks again for highlighting this unfortunate case. Hope you are well and look forward to getting together soon, whether in DC or Springfield.