

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

492

June 14, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to urge you to protect consumers from unwanted, invasive, and abusive ringless voicemails. In April, the Federal Communications Commission issued a Public Notice seeking comments on a petition to exempt ringless voicemails from key consumer protections established by the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). Ringless voicemails allow the calling party to leave automated voice messages in a consumer's voicemail without the phone actually ringing.

Should this petition be granted, telemarketers, debt collectors, and other callers could bombard Americans with unwanted voicemails, leaving consumers with no way to block or stop these intrusive messages. Exempting ringless voicemails from the TCPA's autodialer protections would allow callers to overwhelm consumers with ringless voice messages without first receiving express consumer consent. Further, consumers would have no way to stop callers from sending ringless voice messages, and callers would have no limits on the quantity or duration of these messages. The Do Not Call List may not apply, and consumers would be flooded with unwanted voicemails, with little recourse other than sifting through their inboxes and deleting these unwanted communications.

When Congress passed the TCPA, one goal was clear: whether at home or on their mobile phones, consumers should not be subject to intrusive and unsolicited messages. While technology has changed, that key goal has not. Whether by robocall, by robotext, or by ringless voicemail, consumers should have meaningful control over who can and cannot contact their mobile device.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. If you have any questions, please have a member of your staff contact Daniel Greene of Senator Markey's office at 202-224-2742.

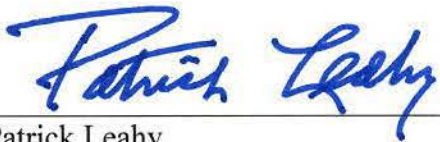
Sincerely,



Edward J. Markey
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator



Patrick Leahy
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator



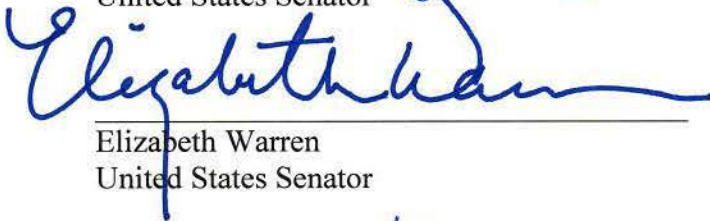
Bernard Sanders
United States Senator



Robert Menendez
United States Senator



Al Franken
United States Senator



Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



Ron Wyden
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

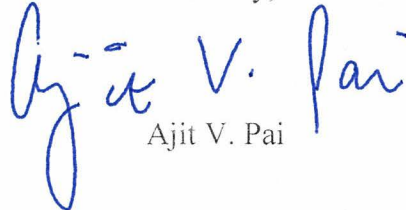
Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for declaratory ruling filed by All About the Message, LLC (AATM). In its petition, AATM requests that the Commission declare that the delivery of voice messages directly to a voicemail box does not constitute a call that is subject to the protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Your views about the petition are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

As you note, the Commission's Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau released a Public Notice seeking public comment on AATM's petition, and the comment periods on the matter closed on June 2, 2017. Subsequently, AATM filed a letter withdrawing its petition on June 20, 2017.

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

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Al Franken
United States Senate
309 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

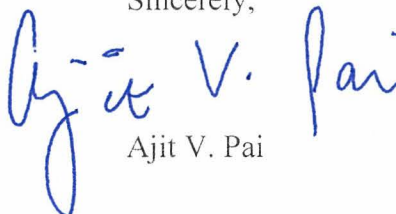
Dear Senator Franken:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for declaratory ruling filed by All About the Message, LLC (AATM). In its petition, AATM requests that the Commission declare that the delivery of voice messages directly to a voicemail box does not constitute a call that is subject to the protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Your views about the petition are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for declaratory ruling filed by All About the Message, LLC (AATM). In its petition, AATM requests that the Commission declare that the delivery of voice messages directly to a voicemail box does not constitute a call that is subject to the protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Your views about the petition are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

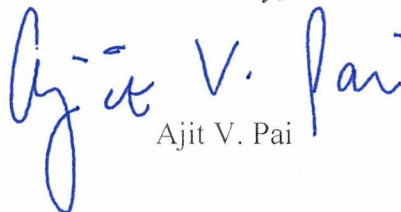
Dear Senator Klobuchar:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Patrick J. Leahy
United States Senate
437 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

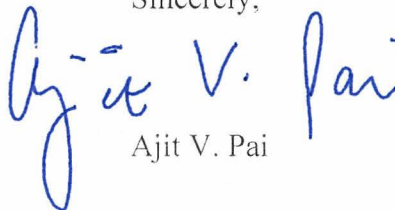
Dear Senator Leahy:

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Robert Menendez
United States Senate
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Menendez:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for declaratory ruling filed by All About the Message, LLC (AATM). In its petition, AATM requests that the Commission declare that the delivery of voice messages directly to a voicemail box does not constitute a call that is subject to the protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Your views about the petition are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Jeff Merkley
United States Senate
313 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

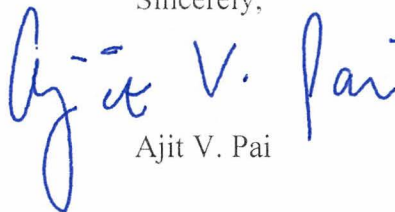
Dear Senator Merkley:

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
United States Senate
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

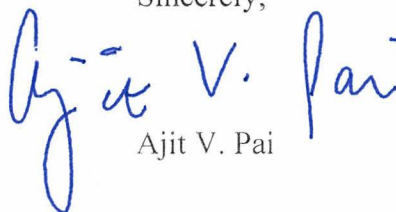
Dear Senator Sanders:

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Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Elizabeth Warren
United States Senate
317 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Warren:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for declaratory ruling filed by All About the Message, LLC (AATM). In its petition, AATM requests that the Commission declare that the delivery of voice messages directly to a voicemail box does not constitute a call that is subject to the protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Your views about the petition are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Ron Wyden
United States Senate
221 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wyden:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for declaratory ruling filed by All About the Message, LLC (AATM). In its petition, AATM requests that the Commission declare that the delivery of voice messages directly to a voicemail box does not constitute a call that is subject to the protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Your views about the petition are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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Ajit V. Pai



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THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding a petition for declaratory ruling filed by All About the Message, LLC (AATM). In its petition, AATM requests that the Commission declare that the delivery of voice messages directly to a voicemail box does not constitute a call that is subject to the protections of the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. Your views about the petition are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

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