

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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June 26, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.  
Washington D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write today to strongly oppose the Commission's open petition to exempt ringless voicemails from key consumer protections established by the Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA). Ringless voicemail technology allows callers to deposit a voicemail on a consumer's phone without the phone ever ringing. Even though these voicemails may be quieter than what we traditionally think of as cellphone spam, they are no less intrusive or annoying to consumers.

The TCPA was designed to prevent consumers from being plagued by unwanted and unsolicited calls. While the statute was an important and significant step forward, if you ask any consumer today, they will tell you current law is absolutely inadequate to keep them from being harassed and irritated by spam on their cellphones. In fact, in May of 2017 alone, consumers received 2.6 billion robocalls, according to YouMail.

Ringless voicemail would be yet another way for consumers to feel that their phones are not their own. Unsolicited, spam robocall voicemails could flood mailboxes, clogging out legitimate messages.

As policymakers, what we should be doing is finding ways to make current law stronger and tighter; the government should not begin to contemplate allowing new and different ways for consumers to be overwhelmed by unwanted messages.

Accordingly, I urge you to swiftly reject the ringless voicemail petition. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,



Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senator



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

July 18, 2017

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer  
United States Senate  
322 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Schumer:

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.

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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai