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Congress of the United States
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June 6, 2018

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

Received & Inspected

JUN 11 2018

FCC Mailroom

Dear Chairman Pai,

As you know, expanding access to highspeed broadband quickly and effectively is critical to our nation's success. Reliable, high-speed Internet paves the way for 21st century education, job creation, and connectivity.

I understand that in an effort to accelerate the roll out of highspeed broadband, the Commission is considering so-called One-Touch Make-Ready (OTMR) proposals that would reduce the number of line workers used in the process. I request that under any such proposal, line workers' contractual obligations under their current collective bargaining agreements be honored. I urge the Commission to further ensure that any make-ready policy adopted maintains continuous service for customers and protects workers and the public's safety.

Existing line workers are in the best position to reduce customer outages and have the necessary training to make sure the work is done correctly and safely. Thank you for your consideration and for your efforts to expand access to vital Internet services to all Americans.

Sincerely,



Charlie Crist
United States Congressman



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 10, 2018

The Honorable Charlie Crist
U.S. House of Representatives
427 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Crist:

Thank you for your letter on pole attachments and "one-touch make-ready" (OTMR) proposals. My highest priority is making sure every American who wants high-speed Internet access can get it. But the plain reality is that if you live in rural America, you are much less likely to have high-speed Internet access than if you live in a city. If you live in a low-income neighborhood, you are less likely to have high-speed Internet access than if you live in a wealthier area. To change that, we need massive investment to construct, expand, and improve wired and wireless networks. And to spur that investment, the FCC needs to remove outdated and unnecessary barriers.

At our August 2 meeting, the FCC did just that by adopting an OTMR regime for the vast majority of attachments governed by federal law. Recommended by the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, OTMR promises to substantially lower the cost and shorten the time to deploy broadband on utility poles. It allows a new provider who wants to attach to a pole to move all the wires and equipment in just one "touch." It's a bit like having to go to the grocery, the dry cleaner, and the bank. The slow way to do this would be to visit each business but return home each time. The rational thing we all do is to do each errand, one after the other, all on one trip. That's essentially what OTMR is.

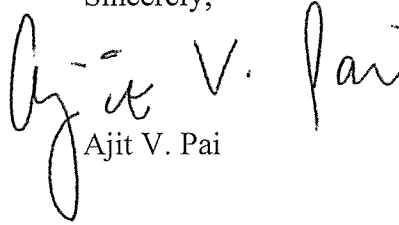
By making it quicker and cheaper to attach to poles, we can accelerate network buildout and make it easier for new entrants to provide more broadband competition. We respected existing collective bargaining agreements, allowing union labor to be present for survey and make-ready work and to conduct post-make-ready inspections through such contracts with existing attachers. We also included safeguards to protect the public and worker safety and excluded from OTMR new attachments that are more complicated or above the "communications space" of a pole, where safety and reliability risks are greater. Based on the record, we expect the OTMR regime to speed broadband deployment without substantial service interruptions or danger to the public or workers. As Google Fiber has put it, our efforts will "remove obstacles that reduce choice and competition for broadband consumers."

In short, this Commission is heading forward, not backward. We're favoring competition, not the status quo. We're pressing for gigabit fiber, not fading copper. We're embracing the promise of new entrants that want nothing more than a chance to compete, not the fears of incumbents who always find a way to say no. It's unfortunate that this decision wasn't unanimous, but nonetheless we are optimistic about the positive impact our decision will have on millions of Americans who want better, faster, and cheaper Internet access.

Page 2—The Honorable Charlie Crist

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

Sincerely,

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

Ajit V. Pai