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Congress of the United States House of Representatives

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CONGRESSIONAL PENSION PROTECTION CAUCUS

May 29, 2019

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The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communication Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20544

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express support for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to review and issue a notice of proposed rulemaking on the use of TV White Spaces.

As members representing a rural state that lacks adequate access to broadband internet service in many areas, we are committed to working towards affordable and reliable solutions. Due to the propagation characteristics of the low band frequencies in which they reside, TV White Spaces can play a vital role in providing broadband services to these rural and underserved areas.

We request that the FCC give consideration to how TV White Spaces technology can be used to advance rural broadband by developing rules TV White Space operations on movable platforms such as tractors and school buses. Broadband is critical to economic opportunity, job creation, and education. We believe that the Commission should utilize all tools and technologies available to boost operations in rural areas while preventing harmful interference to broadcast networks and other protected users.

The Commission has taken great strides to bridge the digital divide. We appreciate those efforts and urge you to continue to consider changes that could increase deployment. We look forward to working with you to improve access to rural broadband in West Virginia and across the country. Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Sincerely,



David B. McKinley, P.E.
Member of Congress



Alex X. Mooney
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

August 20, 2019

The Honorable David B. McKinley
U.S. House of Representatives
2239 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman McKinley:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's TV White Spaces proceeding and the importance of extend broadband connectivity to rural areas. I share your desire to use all available technologies to make more spectrum available to help close the digital divide.

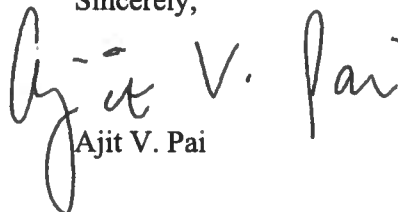
Earlier this year, the Commission adopted several revisions to its white spaces rules. These revisions improved the white spaces database that unlicensed users rely on when accessing unused spectrum in the TV bands and modified technical rules to permit use of higher antennas in rural areas to enable greater coverage when providing broadband services.

On May 3, 2019, Microsoft filed a petition for rulemaking requesting that the Commission further modify the rules for white space devices. Specifically, it requested that the Commission provide additional technical modifications to its rules to permit: (1) higher antenna power limits and heights for certain unlicensed devices; (2) more intensive use of unused spectrum where doing so would not cause harmful interference to licensed users; (3) further adjustments to the rules to support the use of white space channels for narrowband Internet of Things applications; and (4) unlicensed white space device operations on movable platforms (such as tractors used for precision agriculture or school buses for connected services).

The Commission released a public notice on May 9, 2019, seeking comment on the Microsoft petition. Comments were due on June 10, 2019, and reply comments were due on June 25, 2019. Sixteen parties filed comments and three parties filed reply comments. The comments were generally supportive, although some parties, such as wireless microphone manufacturers and broadcasters, expressed certain concerns. At this stage, our staff is reviewing the record compiled in this proceeding carefully. We will move forward once we have appropriately considered and addressed the issues raised by stakeholders.

If I can be of any further assistance, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

August 20, 2019

The Honorable Alex X. Mooney
U.S. House of Representatives
1232 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Mooney:

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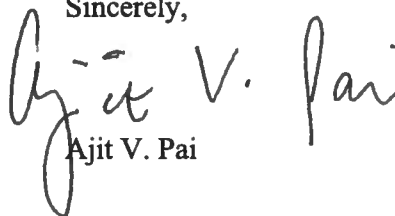
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Ajit V. Pai