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August 22, 2017

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write to follow up on the commitment you made to provide the members of the Energy and Commerce Committee with quarterly reports on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) efforts to implement the National Verifier for Lifeline Eligibility.

By providing low-cost phone or internet service, the Lifeline program is fundamental for Americans that are looking for work and trying to get back on their feet. The small subsidy provided by the program is equally important for schoolchildren needing to complete homework assignments and family members trying to stay connected across the country.

For those reasons, I was disheartened to hear that the FCC has made little progress toward implementing the National Verifier. Originally established in 2015, the National Verifier will provide a check on the Lifeline program to stifle any waste, fraud, or abuse in the program. The Verifier should make huge advances by ensuring that scarce Lifeline dollars go only to those that qualify.

I thank you for committing to providing the Committee with quarterly reports on the status of the FCC's efforts to implement the National Verifier. As part of those quarterly reports, I ask that, at minimum, the following information be included:

- All specific actions FCC staff are taking to assist the Universal Service Administrative Company in implementing the Verifier,
- Which states the FCC plans to include in the initial roll out of the National Verifier and when can we expect those states to come on line,
- Beyond the initial roll out, when the FCC expects additional states to come on line, including a table that lists each state and other jurisdiction where the Verifier will be implemented, the progress that the FCC has made working with that jurisdiction to implement the Verifier, and a target date when the FCC expects the Verifier to come on line in that state or jurisdiction, and

- The number of individuals that the Verifier will serve, as an aggregate, at each stage of the rollout.

We expect to receive the FCC first progress report by September 30, and every quarter thereafter until the FCC has implemented the National Verifier in all relevant jurisdictions. I appreciate your attention to this matter, and I look forward to reviewing your reports. Should you have any questions, please contact my office at (202) 225-7163.

Sincerely,



DORIS MATSUI  
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

October 24, 2017

The Honorable Doris Matsui  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2311 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Matsui:

Thank you for your letter regarding your request for updates on the Commission's efforts to implement the National Verifier for Lifeline Eligibility.

As you know, the 2016 Lifeline Order established the National Verifier to be responsible for determining subscriber eligibility for the Lifeline program by connecting to state and federal databases. I am deeply committed to ensuring that the Commission fulfills its obligation to be a responsible steward of the Universal Service Fund. Accordingly, the Commission and the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC), the administrator of the universal service programs, including Lifeline, have spent considerable time and resources developing a system that is designed to interact with multiple federal and state resources to create a Lifeline Eligibility Database (LED). This database, along with the existing National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD), form the National Verifier.

Commission staff have been deeply involved in reviewing USAC's National Verifier development and implementation plans to ensure the National Verifier is implemented in a cost-effective manner that will create a more effective, efficient, and fiscally responsible program. Commission staff support the National Verifier project by overseeing the development of National Verifier processes to ensure compliance with the Lifeline rules and applicable laws; entering into data sharing agreements with existing data sources to enable the National Verifier to cost-effectively verify subscribers' eligibility; updating the Lifeline program's System of Records Notice, Paperwork Reduction Act approvals, Records Schedule, and Privacy Impact Assessment to incorporate the National Verifier; and reviewing procurements related to the National Verifier, when appropriate. Per your request, attached is an update prepared by USAC of key milestones accomplished in preparation for the launch of the National Verifier in the last quarter.

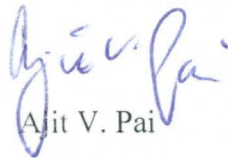
USAC and the FCC recently announced that upon its initial launch in December 2017, the National Verifier will verify eligibility for consumers in six states – New Mexico, Colorado, Utah, Mississippi, Wyoming, and Montana. The initial launch states currently include approximately 327,000 Lifeline subscribers. In order to meet the benchmark set in the 2016 Lifeline Order of launching in a minimum of 25 states or territories by December 2018, the National Verifier will need to be launched in at least 19 additional states/territories next year. USAC continues to work to identify states that will be ready to launch in 2018, evaluating in



particular the cost-effectiveness of building automated connections, as well as the technical readiness and willingness of the state to work with USAC. USAC is also continuing efforts to establish data sharing agreements with additional federal agencies. The National Verifier will be launched in all states and territories by December 2019. I am confident that the launch of the National Verifier will be a major step in rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, but where the Commission can improve processes even before the National Verifier is launched, it has a responsibility to do so.

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

Sincerely,



Ajit V. Pai

Enclosure