



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See *MCI v. FCC*, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI ON THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF A 17.2% INCREASE IN FCC TELEPHONE TAX

Last July, the Commission had the opportunity to enact bipartisan, student-centered E-Rate reforms. Instead, it adopted a plan with numbers that didn't come close to adding up and promised outside groups a massive post-election tax increase. Now, less than two weeks after the election, those chickens are coming home to roost. I strongly oppose this 17.2% tax increase. Instead of imposing a greater burden on families struggling to make ends meet in this lackluster economy, the Commission should pursue fiscally responsible reforms. These reforms would cut the bureaucratic red tape and focus resources on the children and library patrons of poor and rural America, where the need is greatest.