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For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI

WASHINGTON, February 11, 2016.—FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai made the following statement in response to the U.S. Senate’s passage of the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act as part of the Trade Facilitation and Trade Enforcement Act of 2015:

“This is a great day for American consumers. The U.S. Senate passed the Permanent Internet Tax Freedom Act with a strong bipartisan vote. This confirms a national consensus that state and local taxes on Internet access should be taken off the table once and for all. These taxes would make (and in some places already have made) broadband more expensive, reducing consumers’ ability and willingness to get online. This, in turn, would reduce private sector investment in deploying broadband, especially in rural areas, and inhibit entrepreneurship. I hope the bill is enacted soon—Americans need and want the certainty that the digital world will be spared the taxman.”

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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).