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For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI
On the D.C. Circuit's Stay of the Commission's Order
Kicking Latina Broadcasters Out of the Incentive Auction

WASHINGTON, March 18, 2016.—For the second time in two weeks, the D.C. Circuit has taken the extraordinary step of staying a decision made by the Federal Communications Commission. I dissented from each of these unlawful decisions, and I am pleased that the court has stepped in to provide badly needed judicial oversight.

On top of that, just last week a dozen U.S. Senators, including Senators Dick Durbin, Charles Schumer, Roy Blunt, and Ron Johnson, told the Commission that they were “extremely disturbed” that the Commission had “ignored bipartisan concerns” and was “bypass[ing]” the law—in that case, a recently-passed statute that explicitly grandfathered existing joint sales agreements between television stations.

That the courts and Congress have felt compelled to intervene in these ways suggests the agency lacks respect for the rule of law. The message is clear: The Commission needs to follow the law and return to the tradition of bipartisan, collaborative decision-making.

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