

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER AJIT V. PAI**

Re: *Improving Spectrum Efficiency Through Flexible Channel Spacing and Bandwidth Utilization for Economic Area-based 800 MHz Specialized Mobile Radio Licensees, WT Docket No. 12-64; Request for Declaratory Ruling that the Commission's Rules Authorize Greater than 25 kHz Bandwidth Operations in the 817-824/862-869 MHz Band, WT Docket No. 11-110.*

Today's Report and Order illustrates the need for the Commission to review its rules regularly and assess whether they continue to be necessary in light of changing technological and/or market conditions. In this item, we remove certain channel spacing and bandwidth limitations in the 800 MHz band that may have made sense almost twenty years ago but currently stand in the way of mobile broadband deployment. I am pleased that we are taking this step in a thoughtful manner that will both benefit American consumers (including those in rural and underserved areas) and protect public safety operations.

I commend Sprint for raising this issue with the Commission and encourage others in the private sector to call our attention to similarly outdated regulatory barriers to investment and broadband deployment. I pledge to examine such proposals promptly and to work with my colleagues so that we can remove additional obstacles to broadband deployment at future Commission meetings.

I thank the staff of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau for their swift and skillful work in crafting this item, thus allowing us to act on Sprint's proposal in a timely manner.