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For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER AJIT PAI
On the D.C. Circuit Yet Again Staying the FCC's Inmate Calling Rate Regulations

WASHINGTON, November 3, 2016.—Yesterday, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit stayed the FCC's inmate calling rate regulations for a *fourth* time. I am not aware of any other proceeding in which the courts have intervened this frequently to block agency action. Something has gone seriously awry at the FCC.

It didn't have to be this way. Three times I have urged my colleagues to adopt reasonable regulations that would substantially reduce interstate inmate calling rates and survive judicial scrutiny. Three times they have declined. And so here we are yet again—left with little more than a faded headline.

Unfortunately, this is part of a much broader trend at the Commission. Too often, bipartisan compromises have been rejected and the Commission has barreled ahead with legally flawed decisions on party-line votes. This isn't how the FCC used to operate. I hope that the agency will someday return to working together to deliver actual, legally sustainable results for the American people.

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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).