



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

A free media is vital to our democracy. That is why during my time at the Commission I have consistently opposed any effort to infringe upon the freedom of the press and have fought to eliminate regulations that impede the gathering and dissemination of news. For example, in my 2016 dissent to the Commission's media ownership order, I said, "[o]f course, newspaper reporters continue to do important work throughout our country each and every day. Many were recently reminded of the impact that their stories can have through the 2015 film *Spotlight*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. The movie focused on The Boston Globe's investigation into widespread child sex abuse by Roman Catholic priests in and around Boston—reporting that ended up having a worldwide impact on the Catholic Church. But given the newspaper industry's profound financial troubles, it is becoming harder and harder for publications to do this type of investigatory journalism, hold our elected officials to account, and let Americans know what is going on in their communities."

So long as I am privileged to serve as Chairman, I will continue to respect the First Amendment.

I should note that at the hearing, I was asked if I agreed with the President that the media was the "enemy" of the people. However, the President has made clear that he was referring to "fake news." As I stated at the hearing, these comments are part of a larger political debate into which I will not be wading.

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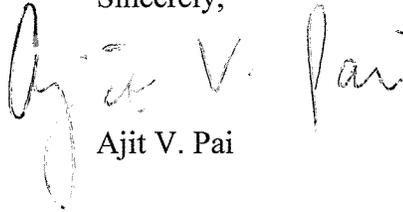
1. No.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. No.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.

Page 2—The Honorable Tammy Baldwin

As Chairman of the FCC, I take my oath to defend and protect the Constitution seriously. And the preservation of the First Amendment is the foundation of that commitment.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

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Ajit V. Pai



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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
706 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Blumenthal:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

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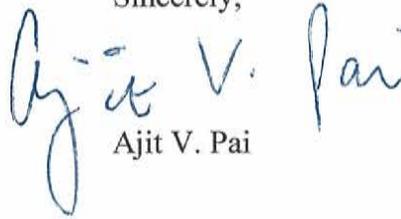
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Page 2—The Honorable Richard Blumenthal

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Ajit V. Pai

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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Cory Booker
United States Senate
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Booker:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

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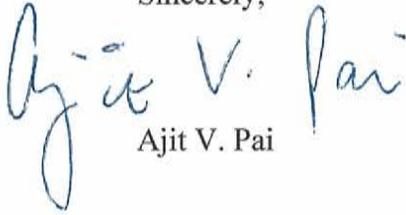
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Ajit V. Pai



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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
United States Senate
511 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cantwell:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

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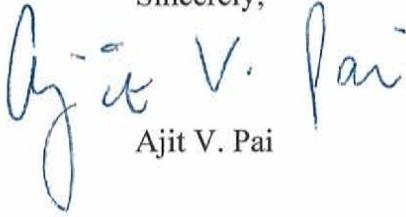
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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Catherine Cortez Masto
United States Senate
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Cortez Masto:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

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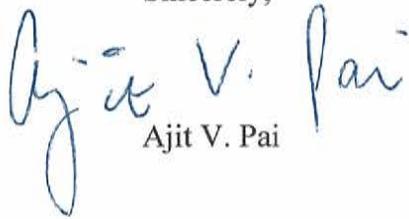
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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senate
G12 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Duckworth:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

A free media is vital to our democracy. That is why during my time at the Commission I have consistently opposed any effort to infringe upon the freedom of the press and have fought to eliminate regulations that impede the gathering and dissemination of news. For example, in my 2016 dissent to the Commission's media ownership order, I said, "[o]f course, newspaper reporters continue to do important work throughout our country each and every day. Many were recently reminded of the impact that their stories can have through the 2015 film *Spotlight*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. The movie focused on *The Boston Globe's* investigation into widespread child sex abuse by Roman Catholic priests in and around Boston—reporting that ended up having a worldwide impact on the Catholic Church. But given the newspaper industry's profound financial troubles, it is becoming harder and harder for publications to do this type of investigatory journalism, hold our elected officials to account, and let Americans know what is going on in their communities."

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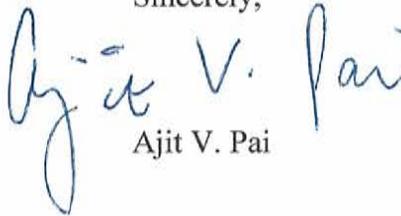
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WASHINGTON

March 17, 2017

The Honorable Maggie Hassan
United States Senate
B85 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Hassan:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

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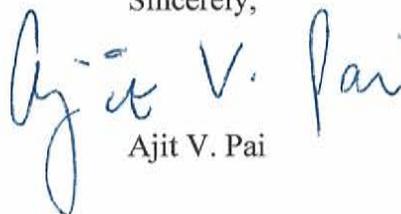
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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Amy Klobuchar
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Klobuchar:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

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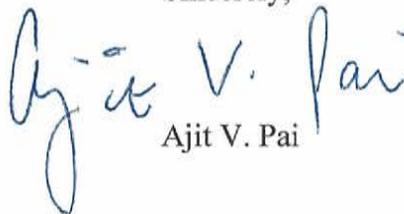
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Edward J. Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Markey:

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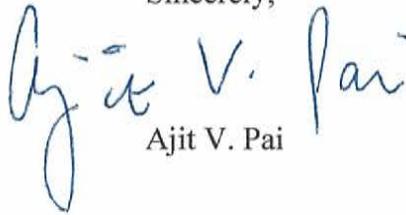
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Page 2—The Honorable Edward J. Markey

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OFFICE OF
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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Bill Nelson
Ranking Member
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Nelson:

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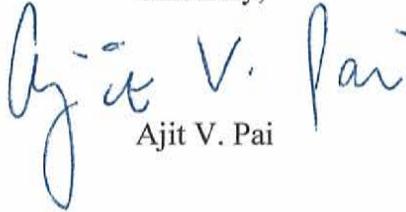
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United States Senate
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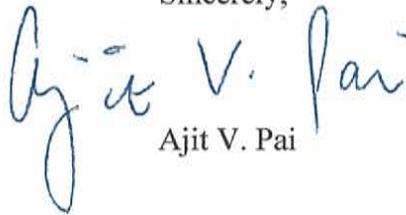
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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Brian Schatz
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

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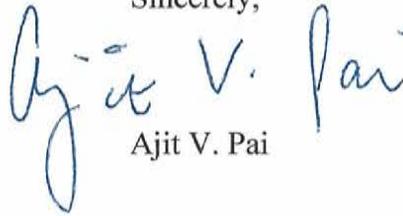
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March 17, 2017

The Honorable Tom Udall
United States Senate
531 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Udall:

Thank you for your letter following up on the recent hearing held by the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. I welcome the opportunity to reiterate my strong support for the First Amendment rights of the media and all Americans.

A free media is vital to our democracy. That is why during my time at the Commission I have consistently opposed any effort to infringe upon the freedom of the press and have fought to eliminate regulations that impede the gathering and dissemination of news. For example, in my 2016 dissent to the Commission's media ownership order, I said, "[o]f course, newspaper reporters continue to do important work throughout our country each and every day. Many were recently reminded of the impact that their stories can have through the 2015 film *Spotlight*, which won the Academy Award for Best Picture. The movie focused on *The Boston Globe's* investigation into widespread child sex abuse by Roman Catholic priests in and around Boston—reporting that ended up having a worldwide impact on the Catholic Church. But given the newspaper industry's profound financial troubles, it is becoming harder and harder for publications to do this type of investigatory journalism, hold our elected officials to account, and let Americans know what is going on in their communities."

So long as I am privileged to serve as Chairman, I will continue to respect the First Amendment.

I should note that at the hearing, I was asked if I agreed with the President that the media was the "enemy" of the people. However, the President has made clear that he was referring to "fake news." As I stated at the hearing, these comments are part of a larger political debate into which I will not be wading.

With that in mind, here are my answers to the specific questions you ask in your letter:

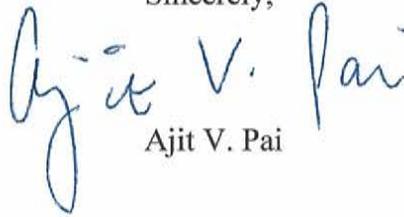
1. No.
2. Yes.
3. Yes.
4. No.
5. Yes.
6. Yes.

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As Chairman of the FCC, I take my oath to defend and protect the Constitution seriously. And the preservation of the First Amendment is the foundation of that commitment.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and a long tail on the "i".

Ajit V. Pai