STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI

Re: ***Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters*, IB Docket No. 16-408.**

As we strive to close the digital divide, we must be open to any and every technology that could connect consumers across the country. That's why we once again look to the skies for inspiration—and in particular, to new satellite constellations that offer potential for bridging this gap.

Today, the FCC updates the framework that will govern non-geostationary-satellite orbit (NGSO) satellite systems. And it's high time: It's been over a decade since we first adopted rules for these types of constellations. In the years since, innovation has brought exciting potential to connect consumers across the nation, especially in rural, remote, and tribal areas. The rules we adopt will promote the next generation of NGSO systems, which could expand broadband access where it's needed most.

I'm also pleased to announce that I have circulated for my colleagues' consideration orders that would grant U.S. market access to two more NGSO systems in the Ku- and Ka- spectrum bands. This is possible thanks to the International Bureau staff, which has steadily worked to process these and other market access applications for NGSO satellite systems. As I said in June with the FCC's approval of OneWeb's application, these satellites could be a gateway to more broadband competition, benefiting consumers.

Thank you to all the staff that worked on this item: Jose Albuquerque, Clay DeCell, Chip Fleming, Jennifer Gilsenan, Sankar Persaud, Tom Sullivan, and Troy Tanner from the International Bureau; Bahman Badipour, Michael Ha, Tom Mooring, and Nick Oros from the Office of Engineering and Technology; Stephen Buenzow, Peter Daronco, John Schauble, and Blaise Scinto from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; and Deborah Broderson and David Horowitz from the Office of General Counsel.