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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRMAN PAI STATEMENT ON PROPOSAL TO BEGIN A
COMPREHENSIVE REVIEW OF THE NATIONAL OWNERSHIP CAP**

WASHINGTON, November 21, 2017—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai issued the following statement on the draft Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that he circulated to his fellow Commissioners today, seeking comment on the FCC’s national television multiple ownership rule, also known as the national cap, including the UHF discount:

“Earlier this year, the Commission reinstated the UHF discount, finding that the prior FCC’s decision last year to eliminate it absent a simultaneous review of the 39 percent national cap effectively tightened the cap without determining whether that was in the public interest. Because the national cap and the UHF discount are inextricably linked, any review of one component of the rule must include a review of the other.

“Under the proposal that I shared with my colleagues today, we would go about determining the future of the national cap, including the UHF discount, the right way. Specifically, we would seek public input on whether to modify, retain, or eliminate the 39 percent national cap as well as the UHF discount. With respect to legal authority, in 2016 the Commission ‘conclude[d] that [it] has the authority to modify the national audience reach cap, including the authority to revise or eliminate the UHF discount’; we will take a fresh look at this issue as well.

“A comprehensive review of the rule is warranted in light of considerable marketplace changes, such as technological developments and increased video programming options for consumers, since the cap was last modified in 2004.”

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