



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

February 1, 2018

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

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding First Amendment freedoms and the independence of the Federal Communications Commission.

Throughout my tenure at the Commission, I have consistently been a strong supporter of the First Amendment, and the FCC under my leadership has protected and will continue to protect the First Amendment. Moreover, I have made clear that the FCC does not have the authority to revoke a license of a broadcast station based on the content of a particular newscast. Additionally, I have long championed the FCC's independence. Accordingly, I can also assure you that under my leadership the Commission's review of any matter associated with any broadcast license will not be impacted by political pressure from elected officials.

You asked that I "provide information about any correspondence or communications from the White House or other members of the Trump administration that have encouraged [me] to take action against a broadcaster." I have received no such correspondence or communications.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai