



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

March 28, 2019

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's E-Rate program, which helps millions of American students benefit from digital learning and is a key component of the Universal Service Fund. An effective E-Rate program—one that promotes better connectivity for students and library patrons alike—can be a powerful tool to help bridge the digital divide.

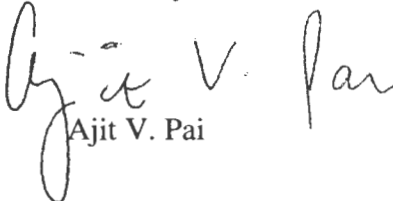
Soon after becoming Chairman in 2017, I directed the Universal Service Administrative Company to improve administration of the E-Rate program to make it easier for schools and libraries to apply for and receive funding without enduring unnecessary delays or denials. As a result, USAC issued funding commitments and disbursements at a faster pace that year than the previous. And last year, USAC processed 95% of timely filed and complete E-Rate applications by September 1, 2018 and committed significantly more funding at that time (\$1.68 billion) than it had committed at a similar point the previous year (\$964 million).

As you know, USAC recently migrated to a new Business Process Outsourcing vendor to perform certain administrative functions for the E-Rate program. To minimize disruption to schools and libraries and help ensure a smooth transition, the FCC's Wireline Competition Bureau and Office of the Managing Director staff have exercised close oversight of USAC's transition activities, including regular meetings with USAC staff to discuss and monitor the steps taken on operations, information technology, staffing, and stakeholder outreach.

FCC staff continues to closely monitor progress as USAC begins to process Funding Year 2019 applications. And I have directed staff and USAC to exceed last year's 95% target for processing E-Rate applications by September 1 of this year.

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

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

March 28, 2019

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

Dear Senator Markey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's E-Rate program, which helps millions of American students benefit from digital learning and is a key component of the Universal Service Fund. An effective E-Rate program—one that promotes better connectivity for students and library patrons alike—can be a powerful tool to help bridge the digital divide.

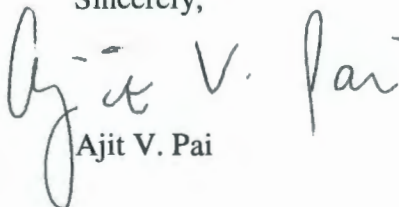
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A".
Ajit V. Pai