



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

June 1, 2018

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
Committee on Energy and Commerce
U.S. House of Representatives
2322A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pallone:

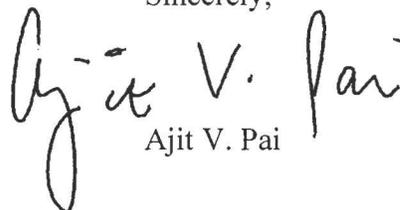
Thank you for your letter regarding the recent reports of cell-site simulators operating in the Washington, D.C. area. I share your concern that cell-site simulators may be used unlawfully by foreign actors and continue to monitor reports of their use.

The Department of Homeland Security has taken the lead in assessing the potential threat from certain uses of cell-site simulators. For example, the Department's April 2017 "Study on Mobile Device Security" identified cell-site simulators as an existing and emerging threat. And the Department's National Protection and Programs Directorate recently confirmed for Senator Wyden that it continues to assess the national security risks and vulnerabilities associated with cell-site simulators, as well as methods to mitigate such risks. The Commission stands ready to aid our federal partners at the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, and the Federal Bureau of Investigation in addressing this issue. If we had particularized evidence that certain devices were being unlawfully used within the United States, we would of course investigate the matter alongside our federal partners and take all appropriate enforcement actions.

Just as with all other devices that use radio frequency spectrum, cell-site simulators must meet our technical requirements for radio emissions. We continue to strictly limit the distribution of such devices within the United States, limiting their marketing and sale to federal, state, and local law enforcement officials and only after such use is coordinated in advance with the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Here too, if we had particularized evidence that certain devices were being unlawfully marketed or sold to foreign actors within the United States, we would investigate the matter alongside our federal partners and take all appropriate enforcement actions.

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

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai