

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
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July 12, 2017

The Honorable Greg Walden  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Marsha Blackburn  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Communications and  
Technology  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairmen Walden and Blackburn:

We write to inquire about the progress that is being made by the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology in scheduling an oversight hearing for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) by the end of this month. As you know, Chairman Blackburn assured us on June 21 that the Subcommittee would have an oversight hearing by the end of July. This hearing could not come too soon, considering the FCC has not appeared before the Committee—or any House committee—to testify a single time this year. That stands in stark contrast to the Chairman of the FCC under President Obama testifying on Capitol Hill eight times by the end of July last Congress, including six times in front of House committees. At the time, you assured us that these ongoing hearings were not political, but were in fact an integral part of our oversight role.

Since President Trump designated Chairman Pai in January, the FCC has taken a number of actions that fundamentally affect consumers' security, opportunity, and connectivity. Americans remain concerned as to how the FCC will safeguard their data online after Congress rolled back the FCC's consumer privacy protections and its data security rules. The FCC is now on the verge of adopting new policies of enormous consequence, particularly the Commission's efforts to roll back consumers' net neutrality protections. This Committee has an obligation to perform oversight on behalf of the American people and ensure that the American people understand the consequences of the FCC's actions. The Committee should not be working to shield the FCC from having to explain its push to install such unpopular policies.

The leadership of this Committee has assured us in public and in private on numerous occasions that the FCC will testify during the month of July, but no hearings have been scheduled. The Subcommittee has gone too long without hearing from the leaders at the FCC,

The Honorable Greg Walden  
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and we are concerned that the Subcommittee is abdicating its oversight responsibilities altogether. Therefore, we implore you to inform us as soon as possible about the status of scheduling an FCC oversight hearing.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Frank Pallone, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Frank Pallone, Jr.  
Ranking Member

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mike Doyle" in a cursive style.

Mike Doyle  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Communications  
and Technology