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**For Immediate Release****CHAIRMAN PAI FORMS BROADBAND DEPLOYMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE**

Washington, DC, January 31, 2017. – Today, FCC Chairman Ajit Pai announced the formation of a new federal advisory committee to explore ways to accelerate deployment of high-speed Internet access (or “broadband”) nationwide and to close the digital divide.

“Access to broadband is increasingly critical for all Americans, no matter who they are or where they live,” said Chairman Pai. “It’s becoming the 21<sup>st</sup>-century gateway to jobs, health care, education, information, and economic development everywhere, from the smallest town to the largest city. That makes it imperative for us to remove regulatory barriers to the deployment of high-speed Internet access.”

The Committee will focus on developing specific recommendations on how the FCC can encourage broadband deployment across America. Issues the Committee will tackle include further reforms to the FCC’s pole attachment rules; identifying unreasonable regulatory barriers to broadband deployment; ways to encourage local governments to adopt deployment-friendly policies; and other reforms within the scope of the Commission’s authority.

In particular, one of the Committee’s first tasks will be drafting a model code covering local franchising, zoning, permitting, and rights-of-way regulations. Many localities may not currently have or be able to develop policies conducive to deployment. With a model code approved by the FCC, any city could build a better regulatory environment for deployment, and any provider would have a better case for installing infrastructure.

Nominees for the newly formed Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee will be drawn from a diverse set of stakeholders to address specific regulatory barriers to broadband deployment in both urban and rural areas. Representatives of consumers and community groups, the communications industry, and federal, state, local, and Tribal officials are encouraged to apply.

Individuals or organizations interested in serving on the Committee should visit [www.fcc.gov/broadband-deployment-advisory-committee](http://www.fcc.gov/broadband-deployment-advisory-committee) for information on the nominating process. Please submit all nominations by e-mail to [BDAC@fcc.gov](mailto:BDAC@fcc.gov). The FCC will accept nominations until February 15, 2017. The Commission expects to hold its first meeting of the new Committee during the spring of 2017.

For additional information about the Committee, please contact Brian Hurley, the Designated Federal Officer for the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, at (202) 418-2220 or ([Brian.Hurley@fcc.gov](mailto:Brian.Hurley@fcc.gov)), or Paul D’Ari, the Deputy Designated Federal Officer, at (202) 418-

1550 or ([Paul.DAri@fcc.gov](mailto:Paul.DAri@fcc.gov)). Press inquiries should be directed to Mark Wigfield, (202) 418-0253.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*