



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

May 5, 2020

The Honorable Dan Sullivan
United States Senate
302 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sullivan:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Global Maritime Distress and Safety System requirements for commercial fishing vessels that operate in the Alaska region. As you know, in 2017, the Federal Communications Commission and U.S. Coast Guard determined that fishing vessels over 300 gross tons must comply with these requirements for Sea Area 3 or Sea Area 4. Vessels operating under an exemption or waiver have been given until January 31, 2021 to comply.

I agree with you that these vessels could use another year to come into compliance. That's why the Commission is extending the date for compliance one additional year, to January 31, 2022. This applies to all existing granted exemptions that were set to terminate after January 31, 2021.

I appreciate your interest in this matter.

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