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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRMAN PAI WELCOMES CALL AUTHENTICATION
RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE NORTH AMERICAN
NUMBERING COUNCIL**

*Represents Substantial Step Forward Toward Ensuring Calls
Can Be Authenticated and Verified*

WASHINGTON, May 14, 2018—Federal Communications Commission Chairman Ajit Pai has accepted the recommendations of the North American Numbering Council (NANC) for industry to quickly establish a Governance Authority for implementing the SHAKEN/STIR framework. The SHAKEN/STIR framework is the industry-developed standard for the cryptographic signing of telephone calls. It is intended to eliminate the use of illegitimate spoofed numbers from the telephone system. Illegal robocallers and fraudsters use spoofed numbers to hide their identity and prey on unsuspecting Americans.

“Every day, Americans receive illegally spoofed calls and robocalls, and every day, the FCC hears complaints about this problem,” said FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. “We’ve been aggressively moving forward on new regulations and enforcement to crack down on the flood of unwanted robocalls. But a critical element of solving this problem is call authentication—essentially, creating a ‘digital fingerprint’ for each phone call that scammers can’t spoof or misuse. That would allow any consumer to pick up the phone with confidence.

“The NANC report represents a substantial step forward in ensuring that calls can be authenticated and verified. In addition to being a consumer-friendly solution, call authentication can help law enforcement catch scammers and help carriers identify illegal calls. I look forward to seeing the industry take the next steps and acting on the NANC recommendations. I thank NANC Chairman Travis Kavulla and the NANC members for their contributions towards reducing the fraud and harassment that plague our networks.”

The NANC Report recommends that industry take the lead in expeditiously selecting a Governance Authority that will coordinate stakeholders to ensure that telephone calls can be authenticated. The report also makes recommendations about the Governance Authority’s structure, duties, and relationship with a Policy Administrator, which will implement essential parts of the call authentication system. Importantly, the NANC Report anticipates that the Governance Authority and Policy Administrator will be operational within the year, and that certain providers could be capable of signing and validating SHAKEN/STIR calls in this timeframe as well.

To read the NANC’s call authentication recommendations, visit: <https://go.usa.gov/xQQbU>

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