



# PUBLIC NOTICE

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## CHAIRMAN PAI ANNOUNCES NEW APPOINTMENTS TO THE NATIVE NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE

Chairman Ajit Pai today announced the appointment of nineteen (19) Tribal members and eight (8) FCC members to the FCC's renewed Native Nations Communications Task Force (Task Force). The Task Force is comprised of elected and appointed leaders, or their designees, from a broad cross section of Native Nations, as well as senior staff and decision-makers from across the Commission. Chairman Pai also named Matthew Duchesne, Chief of the Commission's Office of Native Affairs and Policy, as Co-Chair. A Tribal Co-Chair will be elected by the Tribal members. The Task Force will help the Commission fulfill its commitment to increase access to broadband and other communications infrastructure deployment and services on Tribal lands.

"The Commission is excited to announce the members of the Native Nations Communications Task Force," said Patrick Webre, Chief of the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. "The Task Force will continue the work of helping the Commission design and implement policies to close the digital divide. Too often, Tribal Nations are on the wrong side of that divide, and we look forward to receiving the Task Force's ideas for fostering more and better communications infrastructure and services on Tribal lands. The Task Force will be an important element of our commitment to work with Tribes on a government-to-government basis to address issues of mutual interest."

### BACKGROUND

On February 8, 2018, the Commission issued a Public Notice announcing the renewal and renaming of the Task Force and seeking nominations for membership from Tribal Nations.<sup>1</sup> Members will again serve for three years, starting from the date of this announcement. The date of the Task Force's first meeting will be announced in a subsequent Public Notice.

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<sup>1</sup> Originally created in 2011 as the Native Nations Broadband Task Force, the Task Force has been renamed to reflect its involvement in issues including, but also reaching beyond, broadband deployment. *See* FCC Seeks Nominations for Tribal Government Representatives to Serve on Renewed Native Nations Communications Task Force, Public Notice, 33 FCC Rcd 1264 (2018).

## **MISSION**

The Task Force's mission is to provide guidance, expertise, and recommendations to specific requests from the Commission on a range of telecommunications issues that directly or indirectly affect Tribal governments and their people. This will enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibilities to ensure the availability of communications by wire and radio, and encourage broadband deployment, to all Americans.

## **MEMBERS OF THE NATIVE NATIONS COMMUNICATIONS TASK FORCE**

### **The newly appointed Tribal Task Force members are:**

Honorable Susie Allen, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation  
Honorable Cheryl Andrews-Maltais, Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)  
Honorable Michael Connors, St. Regis Mohawk Tribe  
Honorable Joe Garcia, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo  
Honorable Frankie Hargis, Cherokee Nation  
Honorable Jefferson Keel, Chickasaw Nation  
Honorable Andy Teuber, Tangela Native Village  
Honorable Joey Whitman, Gila River Indian Community  
Joelynn Ashley, Navajo Nation  
Bill Bryant, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community  
Crystal Hottowe, Makah Tribe  
Kristan Johnson, Tohono O'odham Nation  
Donald Long Knife, Fort Belknap Indian Community  
Robert A. Lucas II, Tanana Chiefs Conference  
Peter McCaslin, Kenaitze Indian Tribe  
Will Micklin, Ewiiapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians  
Theron Rutyna, Red Cliff Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians  
Danae Wilson, Nez Perce Tribe  
Karen Woodard, Morongo Band of Mission Indians

### **The Federal Communications Commission members are:**

Matthew Duchesne, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Commission Co-Chair  
Janet Sievert, Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau  
Sue McNeil, Wireline Competition Bureau  
Suzanne Tetreault, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau  
Lisa Scanlan, Media Bureau  
David Furth, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau  
Lisa Gelb, Enforcement Bureau

Jim Schlichting, International Bureau

## **EXEMPTION FROM THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT**

Pursuant to the “intergovernmental communication” exemption of UMRA,<sup>2</sup> the Task Force is not subject to, and is not required to follow, the procedures set forth in the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA), 5 U.S.C. App 2 (1988).<sup>3</sup>

## **ACCESSIBLE FORMATS**

To request materials in accessible formats for people with disabilities (Braille, large print, electronic files, audio format), send an e-mail to [fcc504@fcc.gov](mailto:fcc504@fcc.gov) or call the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau at (202) 418-0530 (voice) or (202) 418-0432 (TTY).

## **FURTHER INFORMATION**

For further information, please contact: Janet Sievert, Legal Advisor, Office of Native Affairs and Policy, Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, (202) 418-1362, [janet.sievert@fcc.gov](mailto:janet.sievert@fcc.gov).

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<sup>2</sup> See 2 U.S.C. § 1534 (b).

<sup>3</sup> See 47 C.F.R. § 0.701 (a)