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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515-1009

February 14, 2017

COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY  
VICE CHAIRMAN OF COURTS, INTELLECTUAL  
PROPERTY AND THE INTERNET  
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL AND  
ANTITRUST LAW  
COMMITTEE ON RULES  
VICE CHAIRMAN OF  
HOUSE REPUBLICAN CONFERENCE

The Honorable Ajit Pai  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

I am writing to recommend Paul Belk for the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. Mr. Belk is the President and CEO of North Georgia Network (NGN), a rural Internet Service Provider that services rural areas of Georgia.

In the Ninth District of Georgia, and many other districts across the country, internet is a vital resource that is increasingly difficult to access because of regulatory barriers, decreasing deployment of new broadband infrastructure, and hurdles to market entry. These impediments—combined with a lack of competition—have hurt Northeast Georgians' ability to access reliable broadband, which in turn hurts public safety, business development, and quality of life.

Mr. Belk, however, has taken action to address these problems and provide expanded Internet access. NGN, under Mr. Belk's leadership, has provided Internet access for more Georgians by going into rural communities that previously had only a single provider, thus driving competing providers to upgrade technologies and decrease prices. In doing so, Mr. Belk has directly impacted the safety, business, and quality of life of countless Georgians.

Mr. Belk's impact extends beyond the reaches of Northeast Georgia. He oversees a fiber optic network spanning several eastern states, and is a founder of the Fiber Network Owners Alliance (FNA) which has worked with other small fiber networks to provide better broadband for more Americans. Mr. Belk has also worked to set higher broadband standards for the citizens of Georgia, Tennessee, North Carolina, Alabama, Virginia, and Washington D.C.

Throughout his years of experience in telecommunications and broadband, Mr. Belk has worked to equalize urban and rural centers because he has seen how the Internet can change even the smallest of communities into those of global significance.

For the reasons detailed above, I urge you to consider Mr. Paul Belk for a position on Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. Thank you for your consideration, and please do not hesitate to contact me should you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Doug Collins". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Doug Collins  
Ninth Congressional District of Georgia