

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

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March 3, 2017

The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St S.W
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

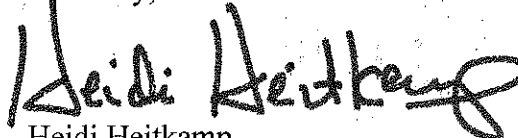
I write in support of the nomination of Pat Mastel to serve on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Broadband Development Advisory Committee (BDAC).

Mr. Mastel currently serves as Associate General Counsel at Midcontinent Communications (Midco), a mid-sized telecommunications company that serves hundreds of rural and urban communities throughout North Dakota, South Dakota, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Kansas with advanced telecommunication services. In this position, Mr. Mastel spearheads Midco's legal efforts with right-of-way acquisition, pole attachment agreements, and regulatory matters at the federal, state, and local levels. The focus of the BDAC is to make recommendations to the FCC on how to accelerate high-speed internet deployment by investigating the regulatory barriers to such infrastructure investment. Mr. Mastel's work in such a largely rural and sparsely populated geographic region would allow him to bring a unique and important perspective to BDAC.

Over the years, Midco has continually set the standard for what it means to be a model telecommunications company through their dedication to their customers in both rural and urban locations. With a seat on the BDAC, Mr. Mastel would bring valuable experience and insight to aid the FCC in its mission of expanding high-speed internet access around the country.

Thank you for your consideration of Mr. Mastel to serve in this capacity. If I can provide any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



Heidi Heitkamp
United States Senate