

February 17, 2017

Mr. Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554-0004

Received & Inspected
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FCC Mail Room

Dear Chairman Pai:

I understand that you recently announced the formation of the Federal Communication Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, which will be responsible for putting forth new ideas pertaining to the effective deployment of broadband across this nation. Given that you are accepting nominations for this committee, I want to write in support of a very impressive Kentuckian, Brian Mefford, who I believe merits consideration.

As I am sure you are aware from receiving Mr. Mefford's application, he has a wide breadth of experience in the telecommunications industry. Presently, he is founder and CEO of Connected Nation Exchange, a spinoff of another company he founded, Connected Nation. Both entities have had as their primary missions the expansion of wireless access and closure of the digital divide. Along with these endeavors, Mr. Mefford has had an opportunity to work alongside the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation on an ancillary initiative, Opportunity Online, to encourage and support the concept of public libraries as hubs for wireless activity and workforce development in rural communities.

This brief snapshot of Mr. Mefford's career evidences his devotion to and passion for improving the digital landscape. A man of such experience and talents, in my opinion, would be a worthy addition to the FCC's committee. As such, I ask that you give thoughtful deliberation to his application and nomination for service on this committee.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/jw

cc: Mignon Clyburn, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission
Michael O'Rielly, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission