

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

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April 6, 2017

Received & Inspected

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FCC Mail Room

Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

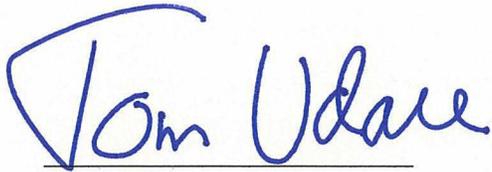
We write in support of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission's (PRC) nomination of Chairman Sandy Jones to serve on the newly formed Federal Communications Commission Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee. Mr. Jones's efforts to improve broadband access and quality of service for rural New Mexico and his leadership in creating regulations and policies that finance the expansion of broadband in rural communities to enable people to access education, health and job opportunities that were once out of reach make him a qualified candidate for consideration.

As a commissioner for the Southwestern region of New Mexico, Mr. Jones understands first hand that reliable high-speed Internet is critical to leveling the playing field between rural and urban communities. Notably, he took a lead role in working with the New Mexico PRC to amend the Universal Service fund to create a Broadband Fund to finance the deployment of internet throughout the state, especially in highly rural, low-income and Tribal communities. This experience highlights his ability to work directly with an agency as a representative of community needs. The Southwest and other rural states have unique infrastructure challenges, therefore I believe a representative familiar with digital divide issues would make a strong contribution to the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee.

By connecting our rural communities through reliable, fast broadband service, we are laying a strong foundation for economic growth, job creation, and improved quality of life for all Americans. Mr. Jones's knowledge and experience working with federal and state initiatives to address this problem would lead him to be an invaluable asset to the advisory committee.

I ask that you give every due consideration to Mr. Sandy Jones's nomination within your agency's established rules and guidelines.

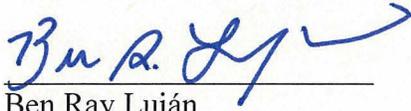
Sincerely,



Tom Udall
United States Senator



Martin Heinrich
United States Senator



Ben Ray Luján
United States Representative