



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

June 20, 2017

The Honorable John Barrasso  
United States Senate  
307 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Barrasso:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Neil Schlenker, Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tri County Telephone Association, to serve on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee's (BDAC) Streamlining Federal Siting working group.

Last September, I proposed what I called a Digital Empowerment Agenda—a blueprint of policies that would accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access, or broadband, in communities across the country, including rural America. The BDAC is intended to provide an effective means for stakeholders to exchange ideas and develop recommendations to the Commission on broadband deployment. Its mission will be to identify regulatory barriers to infrastructure investment and to make recommendations on reducing and/or removing them, which will in turn enhance the Commission's ability to carry out its statutory responsibility to encourage broadband deployment to all Americans.

We were fortunate to have an excellent and deep pool of applicants to serve on the BDAC. The Commission received over 380 applications, resulting in the selection of 29 members for the BDAC, which met for the first time on April 21, 2017. The selection of members for the Streamlining Federal Siting working group is currently in progress, and we anticipate making a final announcement in the near future. We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Schlenker's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for this BDAC working group and any future working groups.

I appreciate your taking the time to communicate your recommendation to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai