

JOHN BARRASSO M.D.
WYOMING

307 DIRKSEN SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
202-224-6441

COMMITTEES:
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS
CHAIRMAN

FOREIGN RELATIONS

INDIAN AFFAIRS

United States Senate

May 16, 2017

410

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

As you build the Federal Communications Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC), I wanted to make you aware of an individual I would recommend to serve on the BDAC's Streamlining Federal Siting working group. His name is Neil Schlenker.

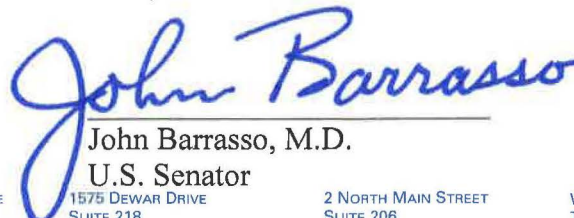
Neil is the Chairman of the Board of Directors of Tri County Telephone Association, Inc. (TCT) in Wyoming. TCT provides Internet, telephone, and television services to residential and business customers in northwestern Wyoming, southwestern Montana, and on the Crow Indian Reservation. TCT covers 5,000 square miles in places where the distance between customers exceeds 20 miles. As Chairman of TCT, Neil appreciates the unique challenges of building broadband networks in rural areas.

Despite the difficulty of serving customers in lightly populated areas, Neil understands the importance of having access to high-speed internet service. Recognizing the ever-increasing broadband needs of schools, healthcare providers, businesses and residential customers, Neil is continually working on ways to expand and increase broadband access in new and creative ways. TCT has overcome rural barriers for more than twenty years, including using terrestrial wireless broadband service where landline facilities are not feasible. TCT provides its customers with some of the best broadband available in Wyoming.

As a telecommunications provider, Neil has first-hand experience working through permitting processes across multiple agencies. Serving customers in Wyoming, Montana, and on the Crow Indian Reservation, Neil has a unique perspective and experience with several permitting processes. His knowledge and background would make him an asset to the Streamlining Federal Siting working group.

The BDAC's mission is to "provide advice and recommendations to the Commission on how to accelerate the deployment of high-speed Internet access." I have every confidence that Neil possesses the knowledge, skills and abilities needed to serve on the BDAC. As a lifelong resident of the Big Horn Basin and Chairman of TCT, Neil would bring the perspective of a rural broadband consumer and telecommunications provider to the BDAC. I encourage you to give his application to serve on the Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee serious consideration.

Sincerely,



John Barrasso, M.D.
U.S. Senator

100 EAST B STREET
SUITE 2201
CASPER, WY 82602
307-261-6413

2120 CAPITOL AVENUE
SUITE 2013
CHEYENNE, WY 82001
307-772-2451

324 EAST WASHINGTON AVENUE
RIVERTON, WY 82501
307-856-8642

1575 DEWAR DRIVE
SUITE 218
ROCK SPRINGS, WY 82901
307-362-5012

2 NORTH MAIN STREET
SUITE 206
SHERIDAN, WY 82801
307-672-6456

WYOMING
TOLL FREE
1-866-235-9553
WWW.BARRASSO.SENATE.GOV