

United States Senate 199

March 21, 2018

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

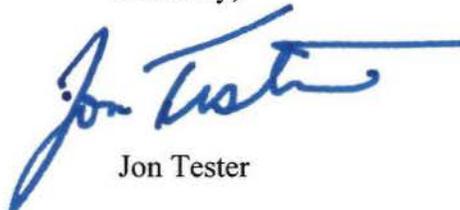
Dear Chairman Pai:

I write today regarding the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Wireless Infrastructure Streamlining Report and Order. I appreciate the Commission's determination to expedite the deployment of wireless services across America. To compete in the 21st Century global economy, we must lead the world in wireless infrastructure deployment. I am concerned, however, that the Commission did not sufficiently consult with Tribal entities on proposed changes to Section 106 historic preservation review before scheduling the item for a vote. As such, I urge you to delay the vote and seek additional consultation with Tribes.

Several Montana Tribes have contacted my office to express concern that consultations up to this point have been practically non-existent. This is unacceptable as the proposed rule changes will have great impact on their Tribal Historic Preservation Offices and communities. Consultation is not optional and an essential part of the government-to-government relationship that is grounded in treaties and the federal trust responsibility. As the nation continues its expansion of infrastructure that could impact tribal lands or areas of cultural significance, it is critical we do not cut Tribes out of the process.

As such, I urge you to engage in meaningful dialogue and consultation with Tribes on this issue and delay the scheduled vote on the 17-79 docket. Innovative wireless technologies will improve communities across the country and I am confident we can find workable solutions that respects Tribal sovereignty and the Commission's efforts to continue deploying broadband.

Sincerely,



Jon Tester