

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express strong support for the nomination of Mr. Blake Hurst to the Federal Communication Commission's Precision Agriculture Connectivity Taskforce.

As former Missouri state officials, we understand that whether the conversation regards corn, soybeans, greenhouse crops, or livestock, Missouri is a leader in the agriculture industry. That fact is reflected in the size of the state's Farm Bureau, which is comprised of over 130,000 farming families. However, as our conversations and policy discussions have portrayed, many of those farms and rural households still lack access to a modern broadband connection, which is essential to operating a modern agricultural practice.

Mr. Hurst has been the president of the Missouri Farm Bureau since 2010. Prior to that, he was involved with the organization as a board member and vice president for fifteen years. In his tenure with the organization, he has been a constant advocate within the state on issues related to rural connectivity and data management. He has led an American Farm Bureau working group on agricultural data, in which he worked with many equipment and seed suppliers to evaluate data needs related to precision agriculture practices.

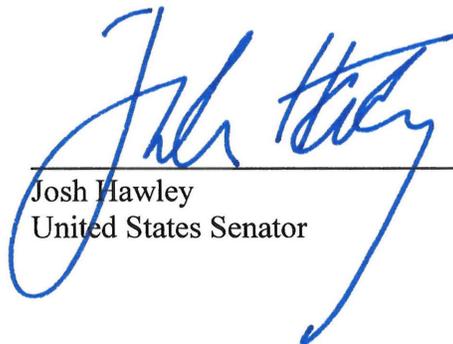
Mr. Hurst has practiced farming for his entire life, and has been an advocate for the community for most of it.

We respectfully request you give his appointment to the committee consideration. Additionally, we ask that you keep our offices informed of the progress of the committee and notify us when members are chosen.

Sincerely,



Roy Blunt
United States Senator



Josh Hawley
United States Senator