

**BILL FLORES**  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
17TH DISTRICT, TEXAS

ASSISTANT WHIP

2228 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
PHONE: (202) 225-6105  
FAX: (202) 225-0350  
<http://Flores.House.gov>

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Washington, DC 20515-4317

COMMITTEE ON  
ENERGY AND COMMERCE  
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COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

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July 19, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

I am writing to extend my support to Dr. Alex Thomasson as a candidate for appointment to the Federal Communications Commission's new task force on Reviewing Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States

Dr. Thomasson is an internationally recognized expert with over 30 years of experience in improving productivity, efficiency, and sustainability in agriculture, including over 14 years at Texas A&M University where he is currently a professor and the Endowed Chair in Cotton Engineering in the Department of Biological and Agricultural Engineering. His research has made significant contributions to improving agricultural production and sustainability through precision agriculture, sensors, data analytics, and robotics

In recent years Dr. Thomasson has been a leader on this topic. His recently published work focused on wireless connectivity for data collection and processing. Last year, Dr. Thomasson was invited to participate in USDA's "Precision Agriculture and Broadband Roundtable" and provided valuable insight into the needs of precision agriculture. He also hosted the "Identifying Obstacles to Applying Big Data in Agriculture" conference which focused on the need for connectivity in agriculture. A clear subject matter expert, Dr. Thomasson would provide foresight and practical thinking on how the task force can best help realize the potential transformation in agriculture possible via expanded broadband access and the "internet of agriculture."

In conclusion, I wholeheartedly endorse Dr. Thomasson and I thank you for your consideration of this recommendation. Should you have any questions or need additional information please contact my office at 202-225-6105.

With great respect,



Bill Flores  
Member of Congress

WACO  
400 AUSTIN AVENUE, SUITE 302  
WACO, TX 76701  
PHONE: (254) 732-0748  
FAX: (254) 732-1755

BRYAN/COLLEGE STATION  
3000 BRIARCREST DRIVE, SUITE 406  
BRYAN, TX 77802  
PHONE: (979) 703-4037  
FAX: (979) 703-8845

AUSTIN/PFLUGERVILLE  
14205 BURNET ROAD, SUITE 230  
AUSTIN, TX 78728  
PHONE: (512) 373-3378  
FAX: (512) 373-3511