

VICKY HARTZLER
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI



COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

WWW.HARTZLER.HOUSE.GOV

2235 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2876

2415 CARTER LANE, SUITE 4
COLUMBIA, MO 65201
(573) 442-9311

1909 NORTH COMMERCIAL STREET
HARRISONVILLE, MO 64701
(816) 884-3411

219 NORTH ADAMS AVENUE
LEBANON, MO 65536
(417) 532-5582

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2504

July 16, 2019

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

Dear Mr. Pai,

Thank you for your commitment to working towards closing the “digital gap” between our urban and rural communities. I share this priority and believe establishment of the Task Force for Reviewing Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture will provide tangible solutions to securing broadband access across our nation.

As you consider candidates, I strongly recommend Mr. Blake Hurst be selected as a member of this important task force. His direct involvement in agriculture production, service on the American Farm Bureau’s working group on data ownership and privacy in agriculture, Congressional testimonies related to precision agriculture, and over 15 years of leadership at Missouri Farm Bureau provide the experience necessary to advise on each of the mission areas outlined in the FCC’s public notice for this task force.

Mr. Hurst works closely with his family raising corn and soybeans, in addition to a large greenhouse operation. When producing these commodities, precision agriculture allows for higher yields, better adaptability, and positive environmental impacts. Mr. Hurst understands the necessity of having strong broadband connections in order to fully reap the benefits of these tools and future innovation that will only continue in regions that have broadband access. Every day without broadband puts our producers and communities at a disadvantage, both domestically and globally.

Overall, Mr. Hurst has substantial firsthand experience with how lacking adequate access to broadband impacts the agriculture industry and is a leader in addressing the potential solutions this task force seeks to address. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to the results from this advisory committee.

Sincerely,

Vicky Hartzler
Member of Congress