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Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-3809

EDUCATION AND LABOR
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July 16, 2019

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

The Honorable Sonny Perdue, Secretary
U.S. Department of Agriculture
1400 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20250

Re: Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force Nomination

Dear Chairman Pai and Secretary Perdue,

As you work to finalize the roster for voting members on the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force, which was authorized in the 2018 Farm Bill (Public Law 115-334), we write to strongly recommend Brent Birth, PLS. Given his background in Global Positioning System (GPS) technology; his knowledge of surveying, mapping and geospatial technologies; and his longstanding experience with the telecommunications community, we are confident he would be an asset to this Task Force.

Precision agriculture allows farmers and ranchers to more effectively and efficiently manage their farm operations, but gaps in broadband connectivity, particularly in rural areas, limit the ability of the agricultural community to utilize these advanced technologies. Surveying and mapping are essential to communications systems and networks, and having representatives on the Task Force with an established and operational knowledge in this field is central to the execution of its mission. It is our understanding that the Task Force is being established in accordance with Section 12511 to include:

"representatives with relevant expertise in broadband network data collection, geospatial analysis, and coverage mapping."

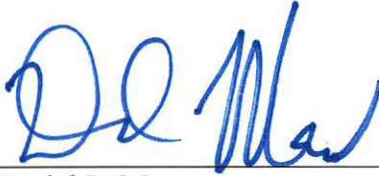
Mr. Birth has over 25 years of experience in the leadership and management of surveying, engineering, utility, and communication companies. He holds a degree from Penn State University, where he majored in Surveying Technology. In 1999, he secured designation as a licensed Professional Land Surveyor (PLS) from the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. He currently serves as CEO and President of Stone Corner Resources LLC, a surveying and mapping company in Northeastern Pennsylvania, which he founded in 2002.

Additionally, Mr. Birth's history of involvement with professional associations has allowed him to stay engaged with this evolving field and the multidisciplinary uses of mapping technologies, including in the agriculture sector. For example, he regularly reviews progress with issues and

techniques, such as line-of-sight analyses for signal propagation studies, identification of the optimum locations for cell tower networks, and models the potential impact of wireless signals on future development and vegetation growth.

Mr. Birth's participation in this space is well documented, and his in-depth knowledge of land surveying and data analysis is clear. Thank you for your consideration of our recommendation of Mr. Birth as a member of the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force.

Sincerely,



Daniel P. Meuser
Member of Congress



Doug LaMalfa
Member of Congress



Glenn 'GT' Thompson
Member of Congress