United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 1, 2019

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

Dear Chairman Pai:

Enclosed please find a copy of an application we have received regarding Daniel T. Leibfried of Urbandale, Iowa, for membership on the FCC Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force. Deere & Company has nominated Mr. Leibfried, Director of Advanced Technology, Deere Intelligent Solutions Group, as its representation for this task force. We ask that this nomination be given all due consideration. Any information or assistance you could provide us with respect to this task force and nomination would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you for your time and attention to precision agriculture and setting up this important task force. Please do not hesitate to contact us if we can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator

Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator

Application of Daniel T. Leibfried
for membership on the
FCC Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force

Deere & Company wishes to nominate Daniel T. Leibfried of Urbandale, Iowa, as its representative for membership on the Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force, pursuant to the Federal Communications Commission's public announcement of June 17, 2019. Also pursuant to that announcement, Deere provides the following requested information:

Name, title, and organization of the nominee:

Mr. Daniel T. Leibfried
Director, Advanced Technology
Intelligent Solutions Group (ISG)
Deere & Company
9505 Northpark Drive
Urbandale, IA 50322
Email: LeibfriedDanielT@JohnDeere.com
Phone: (913) 310-8532

Description of the organization, sector or other interest the nominee will represent:

Deere & Company ("Deere"), headquartered in Moline, Illinois, is a world leader in the manufacture of agricultural, turf, construction, and forestry equipment, diesel engines, and other machinery. Deere provides agricultural and other equipment and services to customers that cultivate, harvest, transform, enrich and build upon the land in order to meet the world's dramatically increasing need for food, fuel, fiber, and infrastructure. Deere has been providing innovative equipment and services to customers since 1837, and today is pioneering state-of-the-art data and information solutions designed to greatly enhance efficiency, productivity and sustainability.

Deere delivers information and communications technology through integrated systems across its agricultural equipment line, as well as through its construction and forestry equipment. Over the past two decades, producers have come under greater pressure to increase yields while maximizing efficiencies and environmental sustainability. Deere has been instrumental in advancing high precision agriculture technologies that address these needs. Guidance systems, data generation and analysis, machine-to-machine ("M2M") and machine-to-farm communications have become integral components of daily agricultural operations. Modern agricultural

operations increasingly require high-speed broadband. As a leading global supplier of agricultural equipment and precision technology solutions, Deere is intensely interested in the timely and widespread deployment of high-speed fixed and mobile broadband facilities in the nation's rural areas and, most importantly, in areas of agricultural activity.

A statement summarizing the nominee's qualifications and reasons why the nominee should be appointed to the Committee:

Mr. Leibfried is Director, Advanced Technology, Deere Intelligent Solutions Group. In this role, Mr. Leibfried leads the Automation Delivery, Advanced Engineering, and the Blue River Technology functions. Collectively, these functions develop, design and deliver critical precision ag solutions to customers, and enable the evolution of precision agriculture from automation to autonomy. Additionally, Mr. Leibfried leads the Deere's precision ag strategy, business development, and portfolio management team.

Mr. Leibfried has more than 20 years' experience with John Deere's agricultural division, in successive positions of increased responsibility. These include managerial roles in equipment sales, tactical marketing, strategic planning, dealer and customer support, as well as an overseas marketing assignment. Since 2013, Mr. Leibfried has had responsibility for product development, sales, and support functions with Deere's embedded solutions business.

Mr. Leibfried has a BS degree in Electrical Engineering from University of Iowa, and an MS in Ag Economics from Purdue University. He received his MBA from Indiana University. Among his affiliations with outside organizations, he is a former Board Member of the Technology Association of Iowa.

Given Mr. Leibfried's professional background and Deere's leadership role in precision technology development, Mr. Leibfried would bring extensive, real-world experience to the Task Force regarding the significant value that precision ag technologies and solutions can deliver, and the challenges currently faced by U.S. farmers and ranchers in adopting these technologies and services. Mr. Leibfried has access to the Deere organization's market, experience, thought leadership and insight on all of the key issues involved in connectivity to support high-precision agriculture. Mr. Leibfried is uniquely qualified to represent Deere on the Task Force and make important contributions to its work.

A statement, if the nominee will represent a specific organization, describing the organization as well as the benefit of having the organization represented on the Committee:

Deere is a world leader in the manufacture of agricultural, turf, construction, and forestry equipment, diesel engines, and other machinery. Since its founding in 1837, Deere has led the industry in developing and providing innovative solutions to ag producers in the U.S. and around the world. In the late 1990's, Deere was first to introduce GPS-based guidance systems in its equipment, which are foundational to precision agriculture. Since then, Deere has introduced major advances in automated tracking, section-control, variable rate seeding and application, as well as platforms for field operation management, agronomic analysis, logistics and machine performance. In response to incomplete broadband coverage of agricultural areas, Deere has developed broadband mapping tools and derived relevant data on broadband connectivity, or the lack thereof, affecting agricultural operations. Deere's interest in the enhanced deployment of high-speed broadband stems from its leadership role in providing innovative technologies and solutions to make U.S. producers more efficient and productive while operating more sustainably.

Deere has actively engaged in policy development at the federal and state levels to promote the expansion of broadband connectivity to agricultural areas. Deere representatives have served on several Federal Advisory Committees, including the FCC's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC) and its Streamlining Federal Siting Working Group, and the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee (CSMAC).

In the past several years, Deere has contributed its views and analysis in relevant proceedings at the FCC, NTIA, USDA, and Rural Utility Service (RUS). These have included the FCC rulemaking proceedings regarding the Connect America Fund and Mobility Fund II (2014); Accelerating Deployment under Section 706 (2015); Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program (2017); the NTIA Broadband Opportunity Council proceeding (2015); the NTIA inquiry on Fostering the Advancement of the Internet of Things (2016); and the USDA Notice of Inquiry on Precision Agriculture (2019). Deere regularly meets with FCC Commissioners and staff, as well as USDA/RUS officials and staff, on matters directly related to high precision agriculture and rural broadband deployment.

In addition, Deere business leaders and customers have testified before several Congressional committees in recent years to highlight the productivity and sustainability gains to be derived from precision technology applications. Deere testimony has consistently advocated for federal broadband policies to take into account the considerable amounts of agricultural lands that are currently unserved or underserved.

Deere was a founding member, and remains an active participant in the Agricultural Broadband Coalition (ABC), a group of agricultural producer, equipment,

technology, retail and other organizations working together to broaden awareness about precision agriculture and support federal policies that recognize and address the connectivity needs of U.S. farmers and ranchers. In its efforts to facilitate broadband connectivity to support high precision agriculture, Deere representatives have also worked cooperatively with other stakeholders relevant to this Task Force, including large and small producers, ISPs and ISP access providers, representatives in the electric cooperative and satellite industries, state and local governments, and firms developing mapping technologies and expertise.

Deere's 182-year legacy of providing high-quality products and services to U.S. farmers is a testament to its sustained market leadership in innovation and the transformation of production agriculture. Deere believes technology innovation will be essential to meet the expected demand for food from a growing global population. Deere further believes that continuous innovation in agriculture practices will depend on expanded wireless broadband facilities and services and spectrum resources that enable U.S. farmers and ranchers to increase productivity with limited resources.