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February 19, 2019

The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554-0004

Dear Chairman Pai:

As you continue to review applications for qualified individuals to serve on the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC), I want to bring to your attention a fellow Kentuckian—Tom Ferree—who I believe deserves consideration to serve on the FCC's BDAC.

BDAC plays an integral role in developing policy recommendations to spur broadband and high-speed Internet technologies, particularly in rural areas, like those in my home state of Kentucky. Given the importance of this committee's work, it is paramount that well-qualified individuals are selected to serve on it.

As you may know from his application, Mr. Ferree has years of experience serving in both the private and public sectors. Most recently—and in an effort to help close the digital divide—Mr. Ferree served as President and CEO of Connected Nation, a Kentucky based non-profit, where he led the organization in its mission to provide communities with solutions to their broadband challenges. Additionally, during Mr. Ferree's time at Connected Nation, the organization worked closely with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to address connectivity issues at several library systems in the United States.

Throughout his career, Mr. Ferree has shown a passion and deep commitment to helping provide communities, both large and small, with solutions to close the digital divide. I believe his depth of experience in the telecommunications industry, and in the public sector, makes him worthy of consideration to serve on the BDAC, and therefore, I ask that his application and nomination be given fair review.

Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,



MITCH McCONNELL
UNITED STATES SENATOR

MM/qs



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 28, 2019

The Honorable Mitch McConnell
United States Senate
317 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator McConnell:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Tom Ferree, President and CEO of Connected Nation, to serve on the Commission's Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee (BDAC). We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Ferree's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the BDAC and its working groups.

I appreciate your taking the time to communicate your recommendation to me. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai