

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 16, 2019

479

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

We write to express strong support for the nomination of Mr. Blake Hurst to the Federal Communication Commission's Precision Agriculture Connectivity Taskforce.

As former Missouri state officials, we understand that whether the conversation regards corn, soybeans, greenhouse crops, or livestock, Missouri is a leader in the agriculture industry. That fact is reflected in the size of the state's Farm Bureau, which is comprised of over 130,000 farming families. However, as our conversations and policy discussions have portrayed, many of those farms and rural households still lack access to a modern broadband connection, which is essential to operating a modern agricultural practice.

Mr. Hurst has been the president of the Missouri Farm Bureau since 2010. Prior to that, he was involved with the organization as a board member and vice president for fifteen years. In his tenure with the organization, he has been a constant advocate within the state on issues related to rural connectivity and data management. He has led an American Farm Bureau working group on agricultural data, in which he worked with many equipment and seed suppliers to evaluate data needs related to precision agriculture practices.

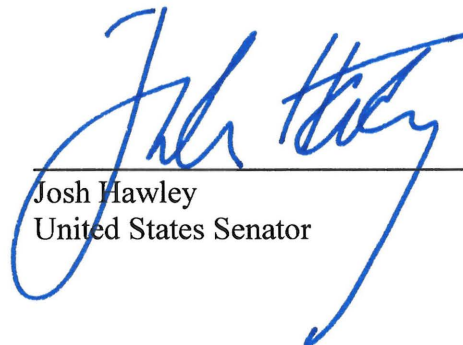
Mr. Hurst has practiced farming for his entire life, and has been an advocate for the community for most of it.

We respectfully request you give his appointment to the committee consideration. Additionally, we ask that you keep our offices informed of the progress of the committee and notify us when members are chosen.

Sincerely,



Roy Blunt  
United States Senator



Josh Hawley  
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 19, 2019

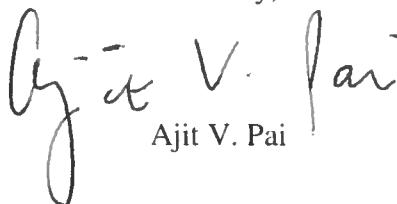
The Honorable Joshua Hawley  
United States Senate  
B40A Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Hawley:

Thank you for your letter supporting the appointment of Mr. Blake Hurst, President of the Missouri Farm Bureau, to serve on the Commission's Task Force for Reviewing Connectivity and Technology Needs of Precision Agriculture in the United States. We will certainly consider your recommendation and Mr. Hurst's impressive resume as the Commission reviews the nominations for the Task Force and its working groups.

I appreciate you 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 written in a cursive style with a large, stylized "A" and "P".

Ajit V. Pai



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 19, 2019

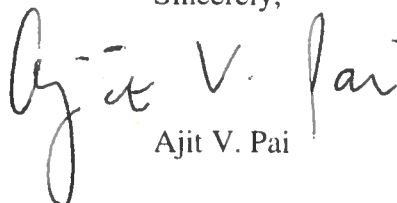
The Honorable Roy Blunt  
United States Senate  
260 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Blunt:

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I appreciate you 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 that reads "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent.

Ajit V. Pai