

VICKY HARTZLER  
4TH DISTRICT, MISSOURI



COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES  
RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
TACTICAL AIR AND LAND FORCES

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE  
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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
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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

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



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

July 30, 2019

The Honorable Vicky Hartzler  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2235 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congresswoman Hartzler:

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 fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai