Chairman John Thune
Written Questions for the Record to
Mr. Lance Donny
"The Connected World: Examining the Internet of Things"
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
Wednesday, February 11, 2015

Question 1 - Mr. Donny, you stated the Internet of Things technology can often be cost prohibitive for farmers. One reason we've seen IoT proliferate is huge cost reductions for bandwidth, processing, and sensors. Are these trends helping to drive IoT adoption on the farm? What is needed to bring the cost of technology down for farmers?

Question 2 - Mr. Donny, in your testimony, you talked about the drought in California and how challenging that has been. Would you please elaborate on how the Internet of Things is helping farmers deal with a lack of water?

Senator Roy Blunt
Written Questions for the Record to
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Question 1 - As the "Internet of Things" includes modems talking to each other, and machines talking to each other, how reliable is wireless connectivity in remote areas today?

Question 2 - What broadband capacity is needed and how soon will it be available for the potential of the "Internet of Things" to be realized in agriculture – particularly for precision agriculture?

Question 3 - A number of colleagues from this committee and myself recently wrote the Federal Communications Commission to emphasize that "rural households and businesses stand to benefit" from the Mobility Fund for wireless broadband in rural areas, and the Connect America Fund for fiber broadband in rural areas.

Today's hearing underscores that need, as the "Internet of Things" is dependent on broadband connectivity – both wireline and wireless.

What is your opinion of the Federal Communications Commission's attempt so far to reform the Mobility Fund for rural wireless, and the Connect America Fund for fiber to unserved rural areas?

Question 4 - In your testimony, you cite the American Farm Bureau's Privacy and Security Principles. These principles cover a wide range of issues including education about rights and responsibilities, ownership of data, the collection and use of data, notice, transparency, and choice for consumers.

Did the American Farm Bureau need a government agency to instruct them in developing these principles, or were they able to come up with them on their own?

If the American Farm Bureau can establish a set of principles regarding expectations of rights and responsibilities for the "Internet of Things," can other sectors of the economy do the same?