Kristi Thompson

From: Joel Graham
Sent: Monday, April 28, 2025 12:06 PM
To: Scott Delacourt; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Adam Chan; Anthony Patrone; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Adam Jackman; Stephanie Chambless
Cc: Kristi Thompson; Joel Graham; Christopher Santini
Subject: [OCH Search Request] FOIA 2025-586
Attachments: Request Details Form (2025-586).pdf

All,

The Commission has received the attached FOIA request, which seeks:

> "A copy of each email (TO, FROM, and CC) containing the phrase "60 Minutes" for emails dating between January 20, 2025 and February 6, 2025, in the email accounts of each of the following individuals: Brendan Carr, Scott Delacourt, Greg Watson, Arpan Sura, Danielle Thumann, Erin Boone, Adam Chan, Anthony Patrone, Matt Mittelstaedt, Adam Jackman, and Stephanie Chambliss. Please omit news articles and compilations of news clippings."

OGC engaged with the requester last week in an attempt to narrow the number of custodians, but the requester was not amenable to the proposal. (b) (5) [redacted] We have provided guidance on how to search your email accounts below.

We request that searches be completed by **May 12, 2025**, and that you keep track of any search time to the extent possible. Documents should be placed in the folder with your name here: \\fccnet\data\Co-Share\FOIA 2025\2025-000586 (Ravnitzky) OGC will review the documents for responsiveness and any applicable privileges. We are also happy to discuss this in greater detail or answer any questions you may have.

Thank you.

Joel Graham
Attorney
Office of General Counsel
Federal Communications Commission
joel.graham@fcc.gov

Search Guidance

1. **In Outlook, click on the search bar at the top of the page.**

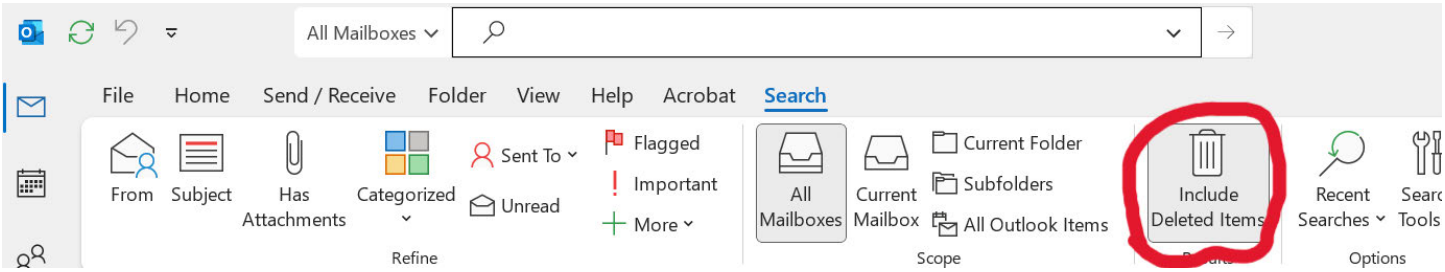


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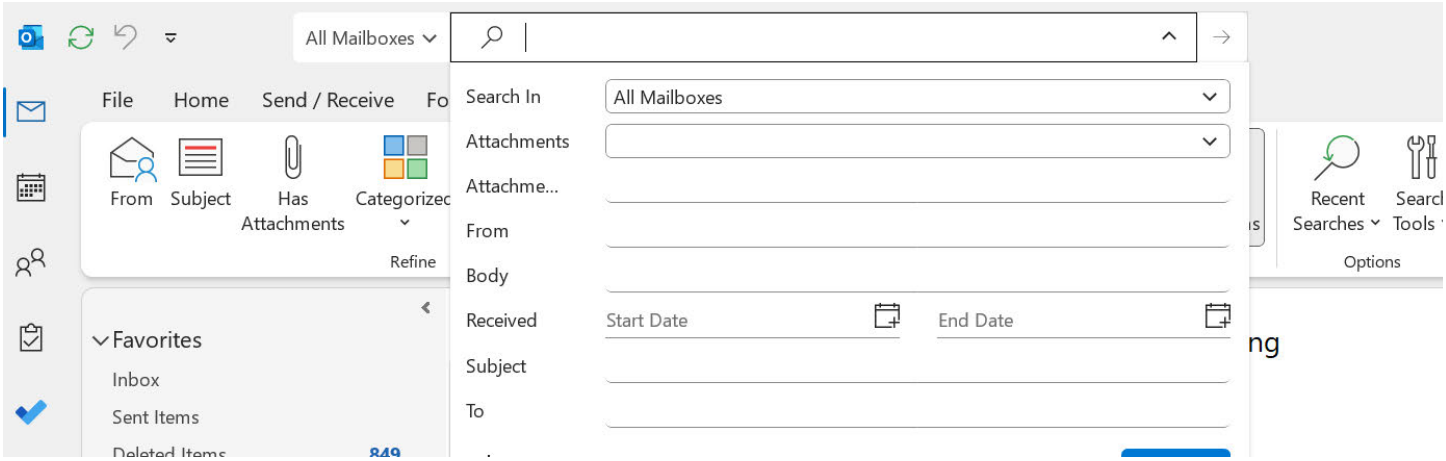
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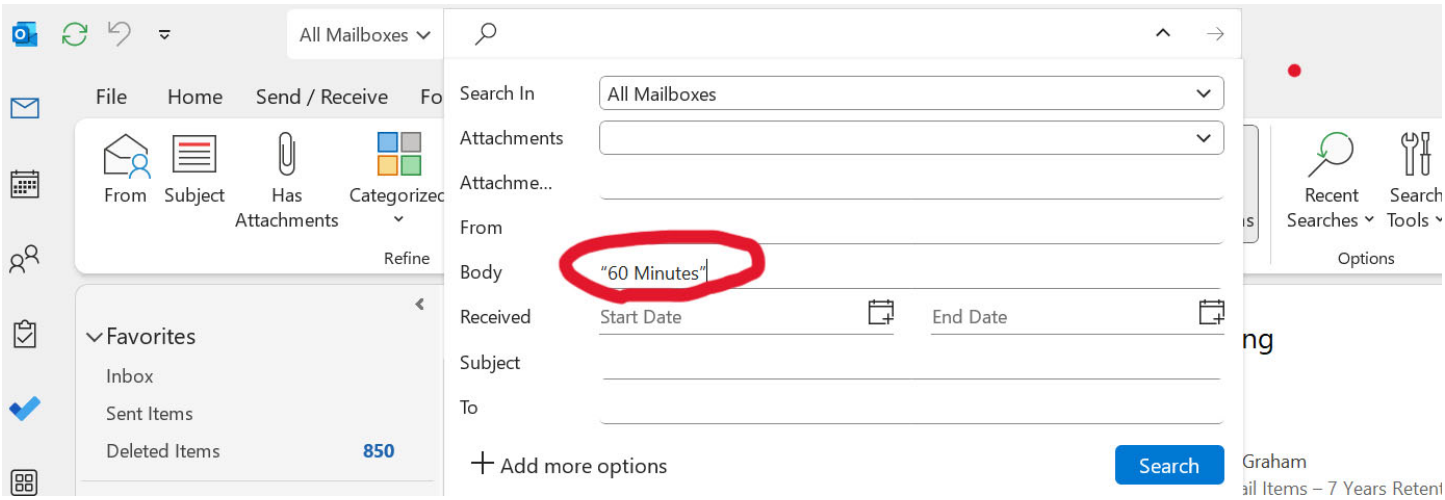


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The quotation marks are required.



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Don't worry about screening out news articles or news clippings or situations where "60 Minutes" is in an attachment rather than the email. OGC will screen the emails for those issues.

Request Information Letter

02/07/2025

Received Date: 02/06/2025

Perfected Date: 02/06/2025

Due Date: 03/07/2025

Bureau: OGC

Assigned To: Lori Alexiou

Request Number: FCC-FOIA-2025-000586

Request Title: National FOIA Portal Request

Request Description: A copy of each email (TO, FROM, and CC) containing the phrase "60 Minutes" for emails dating between January 20, 2025 and February 6, 2025, in the email accounts of each of the following individuals: Brendan Carr, Scott Delacourt, Greg Watson, Arpan Sura, Danielle Thumann, Erin Boone, Adam Chan, Anthony Patrone, Matt Mittelstaedt, Adam Jackman, and Stephanie Chambliss. Please omit news articles and compilations of news clippings.

Public Description: A copy of each email (TO, FROM, and CC) containing the phrase "60 Minutes" for emails dating between January 20, 2025 and February 6, 2025, in the email accounts of each of the following individuals: Brendan Carr, Scott Delacourt, Greg Watson, Arpan Sura, Danielle Thumann, Erin Boone, Adam Chan, Anthony Patrone, Matt Mittelstaedt, Adam Jackman, and Stephanie Chambliss.

Requester Name: Michael Ravnitzky

Requester Title:

Requester Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Requester Telephone Number: (b) (6) [redacted]

Fax Number:

Requester Email Address: (b) (6) [redacted]

Organization:

Date Range for Record Search From:

Date Range for Record Search To:

Attachments: FOIA Request confirmation #1928966,Request Form,Request Received Acknowledgement Letter

Category: All Others

Delivery Method Of Response: Email

Request a Fee Waiver: No

Waiver Request Requires Reason:

Expedited Processing Requested: No

Expedited Processing Requires Reason:

Amount Willing to Pay ($): $125

Disposition Category:

Disposition Close Date:

Other Reason:

Exemption(s) Used:

Request Track: simple

Requester Has Portal Account: Yes

From: Danielle Thumann
To: Joel Graham
Subject: Re: [OCH Search Request] FOIA 2025-586
Date: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:34:17 AM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png
Press Prep for April Open Meeting.msg
RE CAR News Distortion Complaint.msg
CAR News Distortion Complaint.msg
RE Long-Term Policy Planning Conversation.msg
FW Updated Bureau Briefing Sheets.msg
Updated Bureau Briefing Sheets.msg
FW Letter from Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations to the Federal Communications Commission.msg
February Open Meeting Press prep document.msg
PSHSB FOIA Requests.msg
Re CBS Complaints.msg
Re CBS Complaints.msg
Re EXTERNAL Invitation to Edison Electric Institute National Response Event Tabletop Exercise 226 in Washington DC.msg
FW EXTERNAL Invitation to Edison Electric Institute National Response Event Tabletop Exercise 226 in Washington DC.msg
RE FCCU February Events Calendar .msg

Sounds good, thanks! See attached. Some of these probably contain "60 minutes" discussing the timeframe of events, so you guys will likely need to comb through and redact or omit.

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Joel Graham <Joel.Graham@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:01 AM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: [OCH Search Request] FOIA 2025-586

Thank you Danielle. (b) (5) [redacted]

Joel

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 8:54 AM
To: Joel Graham <Joel.Graham@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: [OCH Search Request] FOIA 2025-586

Sorry Joel, following Greg's email I thought that there was going to be some other IT fix for this. I'll send you what I have today. Everything that I have came from emails with Greg.

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Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Joel Graham <Joel.Graham@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 8:40 AM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Cc: Joel Graham <Joel.Graham@fcc.gov>
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Hi Danielle,

I wanted to follow up with you on this FOIA search, which we've almost completed. Please let me know if you have any questions or if there is any way I can assist.

Thank you.

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Cc: Kristi Thompson <Kristi.Thompson@fcc.gov>; Christopher Santini <Christopher.Santini@fcc.gov>
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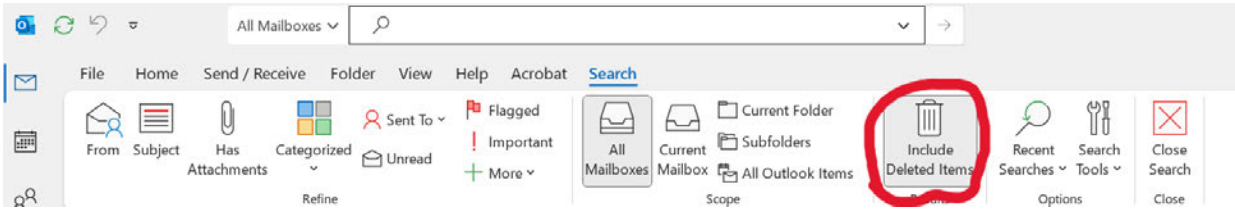


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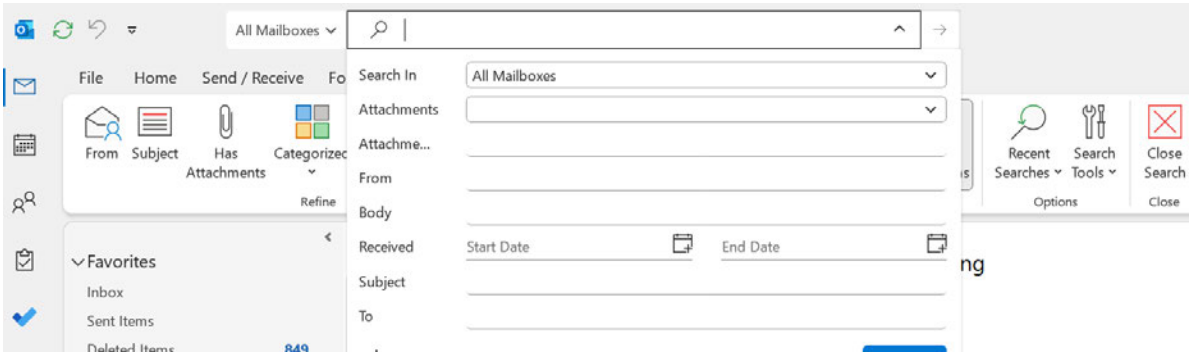
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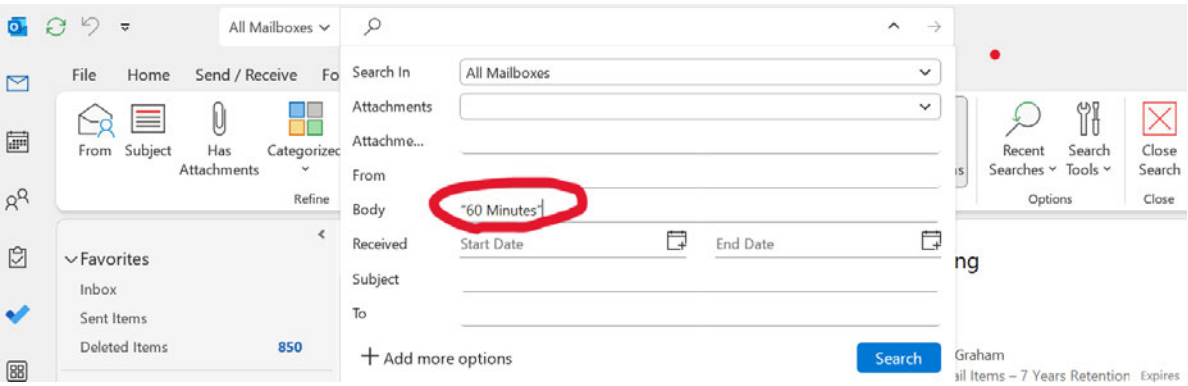


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Kristi Thompson

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Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:38 AM
To: Danielle Thumann
Subject: RE: [OCH Search Request] FOIA 2025-586

Thank you; and we will definitely be reviewing these for any applicable privileges/FOIA exemptions.

Joel

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, May 20, 2025 9:34 AM
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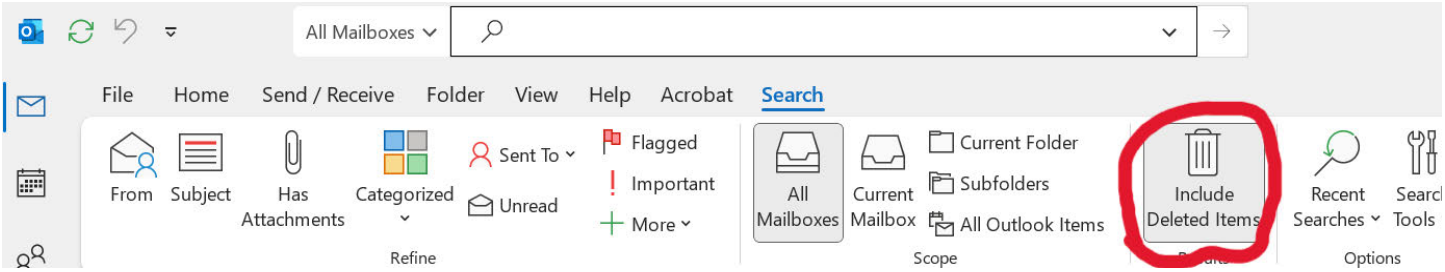


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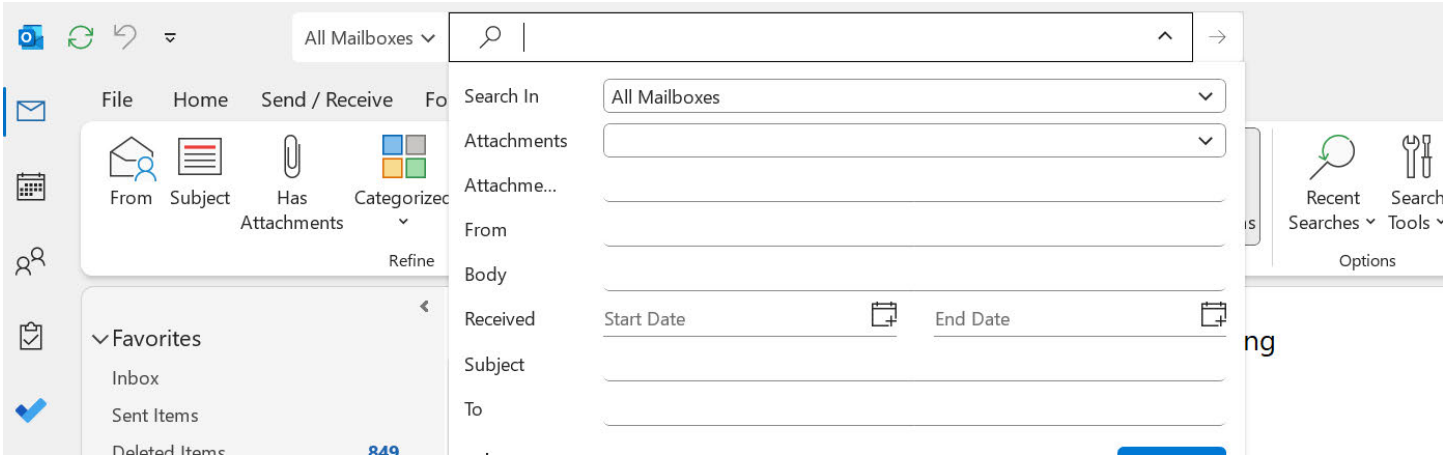
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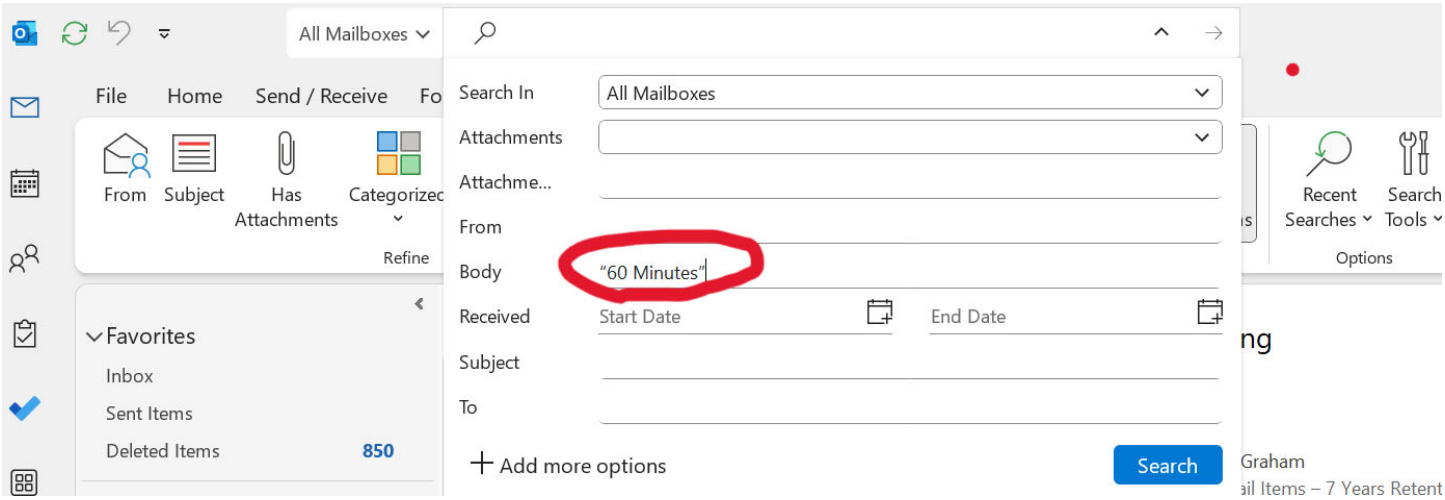


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From:	Danielle Thumann
To:	Eduard Bartholme
Subject:	Action Tracker
Date:	Friday, July 31, 2026 12:00:26 PM
Attachments:	Chairman Carr FCC Action Tracker.docx

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

Chairman Carr FCC Action Tracker

January 2025

- (1/21/25) Chairman Carr Ends FCC's Promotion of DEI
  - Press Release: DOC-409054A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: N/A
  - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (1/27/25) Chairman Carr Stops Costly Regulatory Overreach
  - Press Release: DOC-409130A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: N/A
  - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (1/28/25) Chairman Carr Ends Biden-Era Plan to Slow Down Infrastructure Builds
  - Press Release: DOC-409170A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: N/A
  - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

February 2025

- (2/4/25) FCC Proposes Nearly $4.5M Fine for Apparently Illegal Robocall Scheme
  - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-409354A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: FCC-25-10A1.pdf
  - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (2/6/25) FCC EB Reminds Radio Broadcasters of Payola Prohibitions
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: DA-25-104A1.pdf
  - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (2/11/25) WTB PSHSB Guidance to ITS Licensees Transitioning from DSRC to CV2X
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: DA-25-125A1.pdf
  - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (2/11/25) Chairman Carr Wrote Letter to Inform Comcast and NBCUniversal of an FCC Investigation into the Companies' Promotion of DEI
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: Chairman-Carr-Letter to-Comcast-02112025.pdf
  - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (2/19/25) WCB Seeks Comment on Privacy Issues Related to Text-to-988 Georouting
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: DA-25-148A1.pdf
  - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (2/21/25) FCC Seeks Further Comment on Space and Earth Station Regulatory Fees
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: FCC-25-11A1.pdf
  - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

- (2/24/25) Chairman Carr Letter to iHeartMedia CEO
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: DOC-409718A1.pdf
  - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (2/26/25) Chairman Carr Wrote Letter to U.S. Technology Companies Calling on them to Reject European Regulators initiatives to Censor Speech on a Global Scale Through the DSA
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: Chairman-Letter-to-Big-Tech-on-Digital-Services-Act.pdf
  - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (2/27/25) February Open Meeting
  - FCC Proposes Updates to Bidding Rules for AWS-3 Inventory Auction
    - Press Release: DOC-409837A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-12A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

  - FCC Launches Inquiry Into Upper C-band
    - Press Release: DOC-409835A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-13A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

  - FCC Makes WEAs More Responsive to Public Safety and Consumer Needs
    - Press Release: DOC-409839A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-14A1.pdf
    - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

  - FCC Expands Use of Tool to Block Fake 'Government' Robocallers
    - Press Release: DOC-409841A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-15A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

  - FCC Proposes to Update Commercial Loudness Rules
    - Press release: DOC-409843A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-16A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (2/27/25) Chairman Carr Wrote Letter to Verizon Expressing Concern for their Promotion of DEI
  - Press Release: https://x.com/brendancarrfcc/status/1895211283089367318?s=51

    - Decisional Document: https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/carr-letter-verizon.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (2/28/25) FCC Proposes Fines Against Pirate Radio Operations
    - Press Release: DOC-409861A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-17A1.pdf & https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-25-18A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

March 2025

- (3/7/25) SB and WTB Grant SpaceX Waiver
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-197A1.pdf
    - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

- (3/10/25) Space Bureau Updates Guidance for Compliance with Section 25. 136
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-206A1.pdf
    - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

- (3/10/25) SB Announces Temporary Expedited Processing of Earth Station STAs
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-207A1.pdf
    - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

- (3/11/25) Grant of KXLT-TV Assignment and Failing Station Waiver
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-217A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (3/12/25) FCC Chairman Carr Launches Massive Deregulation Initiative
    - Press Release: DOC-410147A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-219A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (3/13/25) Chairman Carr Establishes New Council on National Security
    - Press Release: DOC-410155A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (3/19/25) Chairman Carr Letter to Committee Leaders on Spectrum Legislation
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DOC-410265A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (3/20/25) WCB Clarifies Requirements for Adequate Replacement Test
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: DA-25-250A1.pdf
  - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (3/20/25) WCB Waives Certain Network Change Requirements
  - Press Release: DOC-410304A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: DA-25-252A1.pdf
  - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (3/20/25) WCB Grants Blanket Authority for Grandfathering Service
  - Press Release: DOC-410304A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: DA-25-251A1.pdf
  - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (3/20/25) WCB Grants USTelecom Waiver Petition
  - Press Release: DOC-410304A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: DA-25-248A1.pdf
  - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (3/21/25) Carr Announces Sweeping New Investigation into CCP-Aligned Entities
  - Press Release: DOC-410318A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: N/A
  - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (3/27/25) Chairman Carr Wrote Letter to Inform Disney and ABC of an FCC Investigation into the Companies Promotion of DEI
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: Carr-Letter-to-Disney-DEI-03272025.pdf
  - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (3/27/25) March Open Meeting
  - FCC Launches Proceeding on GPS Complements
    - Press Release: DOC-410436A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-20A1.pdf
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

  - FCC Proposes Action to Improve Next Generation 911
    - Press Release: DOC-410438A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-21A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

  - FCC Proposes Improvements to Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Rules
    - Press Release: DOC-410440A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-22A1.pdf
    - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

April 2025

- (4/7/25) MB Seeks Comment on Petition for Rulemaking in NextGen TV Proceeding
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-314A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (4/7/25) FCC Announces Reduced Pricing for Reassigned Numbers Database
    - Press Release: DOC-410635A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (4/11/25) Grant of Assignment and Top-Four Combination
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-335A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (4/16/25) FCC Suspends Seven Convicted of Fraud from E-Rate Program
    - Press Release: DOC-410838A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (4/28/25) April Open Meeting
    - FCC to Review Spectrum Sharing Rules to Unleash Space Innovation
        - Press Release: DOC-411096A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-23A1.pdf
        - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

    - FCC Clears Way for Wireless Innovation in Lower 37 GHz Band
        - Press Release: DOC-411098A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-24A1.pdf
        - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

    - FCC Proposes Action to Close the Non-IP Network Robocall Loophole
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-411101A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-25A1.pdf
        - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

    - Proposals to Codify and Streamline Foreign Ownership Regulations
        - Press Release: DOC-411103A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-26A1.pdf
        - Topic: Promoting National Security

May 2025

- (5/2/25) FCC Looks to Clear Backlog of Inactive Proceedings

    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-411232A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-376A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (5/2/25) WTB and OET Grant Samsung and Ericsson Limited Waiver Requests
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-387A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (5/14/25) FCC's Initial Contract Review, Under Executive Order 14222, Saves Taxpayers Millions of Dollars
    - Press Release: DOC-411428A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (5/16/25) FCC Approves Verizon-Frontier Merger
    - Press Release: DOC-411464A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-421A1.pdf
    - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds & Strengthening America's Telecom Workforce

- (5/22/25) May Open Meeting
    - FCC Bans 'Bad Labs' from U.S. Equipment Authorization Process
        - Press Release: DOC-411576A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-27A1.pdf
        - Topic: Promoting National Security

    - FCC Seeks Out Foreign Adversary Ownership in Communications Industry
        - Press Release: DOC-411580A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-28A1.pdf
        - Topic: Promoting National Security

    - FCC Looks to Unleash More Spectrum for Satellite Spectrum Abundance
        - Press Release: DOC-411583A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-29A1.pdf
        - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

June 2025

- (6/10/25) FCC Announces Hurricane Season Resiliency Roundtable
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-411902A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-498A1.pdf
    - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

- (6/26/25) June Open Meeting
    - FCC Approves Rules to Remove and Streamline Cable Rate Regulations
        - Press Release: DOC-412449A1.pdf

        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-33A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Takes Steps to Streamline Broadband Data Collection
        - Press Release: DOC-412450A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-34A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Takes First Step to Address Rules for Obsolete Format for TTY
        - Press Release: DOC-412452A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-35A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (6/27/25) Carr Acts to Save the American Public Millions of Dollars
    - Press Release: DOC-412508A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (6/30/25) Carr Acts to Address Unintended Consequences of 2024 IPCS Order
    - Press Release: DOC-412597A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-565A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

July 2025

- (7/2/25) Chairman Carr 'A Build Agenda for America' Speech
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-412665A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: Chairman Carr Unveils 'Build America Agenda' in South Dakota | Federal Communications Commission
    - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (7/3/25) Carr Congratulates President Trump & Congressional Republicans on Win
    - Press Release: DOC-412702A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Restoring America’s Leadership in Wireless

- (7/11/25) WCB Deletes Obsolete Rules in Parts 8, 20, and 51
    - Press Release: DOC-412903A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-613A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (7/11/25) FCC Completes Review of Wireless, Satellite, and Fiber Transactions
    - Approval of T-Mobile and UScellular Transfer Control of Licenses, Authorizations, and Leases
        - Press Release: DOC-412914A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: DA-25-605A1.pdf

        - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless & Strengthening America's Telecom Workforce

    - Approval of Intelsat Transfer Control of FCC Licenses to SES
        - Press Release: DOC-412914A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: DA-25-614A1.pdf
        - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

    - Approval to transfer control of five subsidiaries of Metronet to T-Mobile USA, Inc.
        - Press Release: DOC-412914A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: DA-25-601A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (7/16/25) FCC Halves Earth Station Application Backlog
    - Press Release: https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1945582391160181063
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

- (7/24/25) FCC Approves Skydance's Acquisition of Paramount CBS
    - Press Release: DOC-413229A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-43A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (7/24/25) July Open Meeting
    - FCC Clearing the Way for Faster Network Upgrades
        - Press Release: DOC-413200A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-37A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Aims to Remove Barriers to Broadband Deployment and Investment
        - Press Release: DOC-413203A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-38A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

    - FCC Updates Bidding Rules for AWS-3 Inventory Auction
        - Press Release: DOC-413205A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-39A1.pdf
        - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

    - FCC Deletes Obsolete Telegraph, Rabbit-Ear Receiver, Phone Booth Rules
        - Press Release: DOC-413207A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-40A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC to Re-Evaluate its Slamming and Truth-in-Billing Rules

        - Press Release: N/A
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-41A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Adopts Rules Requiring Georouting for Texts to 988
        - Press Release: DOC-413211A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-42A1.pdf
        - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (7/29/25) Chairman Carr Wrote Letter to Comcast to Inform them of an Investigation into their Relationship with its Local Broadcast TV Affiliates to Ensure Compliance with FCC Regulations
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: carr-letter-comcast-july2025.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

August 2025

- (8/5/25) Chairman Carr Welcomes President Trump's LA28 Olympics EO
    - Press Release: DOC-413498A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (8/6/25) FCC Removes Non-Compliant Providers from Robocall Mitigation Database
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-413519A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-694A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (8/7/25) August Open Meeting
    - FCC Aims to Overhaul NEPA Process
        - Press Release: DOC-413547A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-47A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

    - FCC Streamlines Space Processes, Boosts Innovation
        - Press Release: DOC-413548A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-48A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

    - FCC Acts to Accelerate Submarine Cable Buildout & Security
        - Press Release: DOC-413550A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-49A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

    - Evaluating the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications
        - Press Release: DOC-413494A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-46A1.pdf

        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

    - FCC Proposes Modernization of the Nation's Alerting Systems
        - Press Release: DOC-413552A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-50A1.pdf
        - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

    - FCC Looks to Modernize Disaster Information Reporting System
        - Press Release: DOC-413468A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-45A1.pdf
        - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

    - Addressing Business Data Services Pricing Regulations
        - Press Release: DOC-413472A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-44A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Deletes Outdated Broadcast Rules and Requirements
        - Press Release: DOC-413562A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-51A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (8/25/25) FCC Bars Over 1,200 More Providers from Robocall Mitigation Database
    - Press Release: DOC-414073A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-737A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

September 2025

- (9/2/25) FCC Takes Action to Accelerate Transition to Next Gen TV
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-414237A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-789A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (9/8/25) FCC Takes Action on "Bad Labs" Apparently Controlled By China
    - Press Release: DOC-414369A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (9/10/2025) FCC Saves Taxpayers Over $9 Million Following Audit Reviews
    - Press Release: DOC-414469A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (9/23/25) FCC Demands $1.18M Repayment for COVID-Era Program Overbilling
    - Press Release: DOC-414711A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A

    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (9/25/25) FCC Highlights Cross-Sector Best Practices for Hurricane Season
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-893A1.pdf
    - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

- (9/26/25) FCC Further Refines Alaska High-Cost Mobile-Support Programs
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-61A1.pdf
    - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (9/26/25) FCC Denies Second Batch of "Bad Labs" Controlled By China
    - Press Release: DOC-414863A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (9/30/25) September Open Meeting
    - Accelerating Wireline Infrastructure Buildout
        - Press Release: DOC-414925A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-66A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

    - FCC Aims to Accelerate Wireless Infrastructure Buildout
        - Press Release: DOC-414922A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-67A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Takes Aim at Contraband Cellphones in State and Local Prisons
        - Press Release: DOC-414923A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-65A1.pdf
        - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

    - FCC Advances 2022 Quadrennial Review of Broadcast Ownership Rules
        - Press Release: DOC-414931A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-64A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - Deleting Obsolete and Duplicative Wireline Rules
        - Press Release: DOC-414925A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-68A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC to End Unlawful Inclusion of School Bus Wi-Fi Through E-Rate
        - Press Release: DOC-414952A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-63A1.pdf

        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Reverses Unlawful Expansion of COVID-Era Wi-Fi Hotspots Program
        - Press Release: DOC-414950A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-62A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

October 2025

- (10/6/25) Chairman Carr Launches FCC's 'Space Month' Agenda
    - Press Release: DOC-415042A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

- (10/10/25) Chairman Carr Announces Initial Success of "Operation Clean Carts"
    - Press Release: DOC-415082A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (10/15/25) FCC Moves to Expel Hong Kong Telecom from U.S. Telecom Networks
    - Press Release: DOC-415089A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (10/28/25) October Open Meeting
    - Space Modernization for the 21st Century NPRM
        - Press Release: DOC-415126A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-69A1.pdf
        - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

    - Facilitating More Intensive Use of Upper Microwave Spectrum NPRM
        - Press Release: DOC-415128A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-70A1.pdf
        - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

    - FCC Approves New Safeguards Against Untrustworthy Gear
        - Press Release: DOC-415131A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-71A1.pdf
        - Topic: Promoting National Security

    - Fifth Next Gen TV Further Notice
        - Press Release: DOC-415133A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-72A1.pdf
        - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

    - Facilitating Successful Transition to All-IP Interconnection
        - Press Release: DOC-415135A1.pdf

        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-73A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

    - FCC Proposes to Simplify Broadband Labels for Consumers
        - Press Release: DOC-415137A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-74A1.pdf
        - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

    - FCC Takes First Step in Fresh Approach to Combatting Illegal Robocalls
        - Press Release: DOC-415139A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-76A1.pdf
        - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

    - FCC Approves Incarcerated People's Communications Services Reforms
        - Press Release: N/A
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-75A1.pdf
        - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

    - Deleting Obsolete and Duplicative Wireless Rules
        - Press Release: DOC-415143A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-77A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

November 2025

- (11/19/25) MB Seeks Comment on Market Dynamics of National Programmers/Affiliates
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-961A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (11/20/25) FCC Prevents California's Unlawful Abuse of Federal Lifeline Program
    - Press Release: DOC-415444A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-965A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (11/20/25) November Open Meeting
    - FCC Proposes Upper C-Band Rules for 2027 Auction
        - Press Release: DOC-415448A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: Orders TOC by Paragraph.dot
        - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

    - FCC Announces Plan to Modernize Telecommunications Relay Services
        - Press Release: DOC-415451A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-79A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Deletes Outdated Public Safety Rules

        - Press Release: DOC-415453A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-80A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

    - FCC Corrects Course, Outlines Improved Cybersecurity Measures
        - Press Release: DOC-415455A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-81A1.pdf
        - Topic: Promoting National Security

December 2025

- (12/2/25) FCC Demands Cessation of Walmart-Impersonation Robocalls
    - Press Release: DOC-415674A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DOC-415638A1.pdf
    - Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (12/2/25) FCC Secures Commitment from AT&T to End DEI-Related Practices
    - Press Release: https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1995934096812544466
    - Decisional Document: https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1201807608046/1
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (12/3/25) AT&T Announces Changes for Tower Crews
    - Press Release: https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1996311745254539565
    - Decisional Document: https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/1201807608046/1
    - Topic: Strengthening America's Telecom Workforce

- (12/3/25) Order Granting AT&T-UScellular Applications
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-1006A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (12/3/25) FCC Closes More than 2,000 Inactive Proceedings
    - Press Release: DOC-415731A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-1002A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (12/3/25) FCC to Save the American Public Millions of Dollars
    - Press Release: DOC-415739A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: FCC-25-82A1.pdf
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (12/18/25) FCC Establishes AWS-3 Auction Procedures
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-1075A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (12/18/25) December Open Meeting

    - WCB Updates Numbering Requirements for Providers
        - Press Release: DOC-416496A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-86A1.pdf
        - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

    - FCC Provides LPTV Service Broadcasters Additional Regulatory Clarity
        - Press Release: DOC-416498A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: DOC-416498A1.pdf
        - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

    - FCC Deletes Outdated Rules on Long-Forgotten Technologies
        - Press Release: DOC-416506A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-25-85A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

- (12/22/25) FCC Updates Covered List to Add Certain UAS and UAS Components
    - Press Release: DOC-416839A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-25-1086A1.pdf
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

January 2026

- (1/7/26) President Trump Unleashes American Innovation With 6 GHz Win
    - Press Release: DOC-417522A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (1/7/26) FCC Updates Covered List to Exempt Certain Drones and Releases FAQs
    - Press Release: DOC-417528A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-26-22A1.pdf
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (1/9/26) FCC Approves Next-Gen Satellite Constellation
    - Press Release: DOC-417881A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-26-36A1.pdf
    - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy

- (1/12/26) FCC Acts to Bring More Uniform Approach to Handset Unlocking Rules
    - Press Release: DOC-417932A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-26-43A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (1/21/26) Bureau Provides Guidance on Political Equal Opportunities Requirement
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-68A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (1/29/26) January Open Meeting
  - FCC Votes to Enable Better, Faster Wi-Fi and Next-Gen Connectivity
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418324A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless
  - FCC Establishes New Foreign Adversary Control Reporting Requirements
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418326A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security
  - FCC Codifies Improved Foreign Ownership Review Processes
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418329A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security
  - FCC Proposes Additional Modernizations to Agency's TRS Rules
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418330A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

February 2026

- (2/5/26) FCC Issues Order Under Expedited Pole Attachment Complaint Process
  - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418491A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-6A1.pdf
  - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (2/10/26) Chairman Carr Open Letter to Governor Gavin Newsom Concerning Mismanagement of New Emergency Services Deployment
  - Press Release: https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/2021303971218948221
  - Decisional Document: N/A
  - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

- (2/17/26) FCC Launches Investigations into Suspect Lifeline Providers
  - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418705A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: N/A
  - Topic: Advancing Public Safety

- (2/18/26) February Open Meeting
  - FCC Proposes Accountability Reforms to Lifeline Program
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418786A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document:
    - Topic: Advancing Public Safety
  - FCC Expands Broadband Spectrum Opportunities in 900 MHz Band

        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418787A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document:
        - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless
    - FCC Plans First Window for New NCE Reserved Band FM Translator Permits
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418788A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document:
        - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless
    - FCC Explores Updates to Intercarrier Compensation Regime
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-418791A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document:
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

- (2/18/26) OET Grants Tesla, Inc.'s Request for Waiver
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-168A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (2/20/26) Chairman Carr Announces Pledge America Campaign
    - Press Release: fcc.gov/document/chairman-carr-announces-pledge-america-campaign
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (2/25/26) Media Bureau Seeks Comment on Sports Broadcast Marketplace
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-188A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (2/27/26) FCC Approves Charter-Cox Combination
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-419093A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-211A1.pdf
    - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds

March 2026

- (3/6/26) FCC Recognizes National Consumer Protection Week with Series of Posts
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-419290A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (3/12/26) FCC Cuts Off Provider for Violating Robocall Rules
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-419465A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-237A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (3/18/26) Following DoW Determination, FCC Exempts 1st Batch of Trusted Drones
  - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-419801A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-253A1.pdf
  - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (3/19/26) FCC Empowers Local Broadcast TV Stations
  - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-419971A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-267A1.pdf
  - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (3/23/26) FCC Updates Covered List to Include Foreign-Made Consumer Routers
  - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420034A1.pdf
  - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-278A1.pdf https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-286A1.pdf
  - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (3/25/26) FCC Updates Obsolete and Unnecessary Broadcast Rules
  - Press Release: N/A
  - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-14A1.pdf
  - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (3/26/26) March Open Meeting
  - FCC Proposes Call Center Onshoring, English Proficiency Requirements
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420129A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-16A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work
  - FCC Proposes New Numbering Policies to Help Combat Illegal Robocalls
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420130A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-17A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work
  - FCC Takes Action to Speed Up Rollout of Modern, High-Speed Networks
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420132A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-19A1.pdf
    - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds
  - FCC Plan for Reliable Spectrum Access for Cutting-Edge Space Missions
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420134A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-13A1.pdf

        - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy
    - FCC Strengthens Protections for Public Funds
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420137A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-18A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations
    - FCC Deletes More Obsolete Rules to Improve Modern Network Deployment
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420139A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-15A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

April 2026

- (4/1/26) Unleashing American Drone Dominance
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420531A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-314A1.pdf
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (4/2/26) FCC Acts to Protect U.S. Consumers from Bank Impersonation Scams
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420577A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-22A1.pdf
    - Topic: Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work

- (4/13/26) FCC Selects New Lead Administrator for U.S. Cyber Trust Mark Program
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420764A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-354A1.pdf
    - Topic: Promoting National Security

- (4.22.26) Media Bureau Seeks Comment On TV Ratings System To Empower Parents
    - Press Release: N/A
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-392A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

- (4/23/26) FCC Clears Way for U.S. Leadership in Direct-to-Device Connectivity
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-420983A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-398A1.pdf https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-391A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless

- (4/30/26) April Open Meeting
    - FCC Modernizes Spectrum Sharing Rules to Boost Space-Based Broadband
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421308A1.pdf

        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-26A1.pdf
        - Topic: Boosting America's Space Economy
    - FCC Seeks Comment on Enhanced Know-Your-Customer Requirements
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421309A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-27A1.pdf
        - Topic: Protecting Consumers
    - FCC Targets Device Test Labs in Nations Without Reciprocal Agreements
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421311A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-28A1.pdf
        - Topic: Promoting National Security
    - FCC Targets 'Covered List' Entities' Blanket Sec. 214 Authorizations
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421313A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-29A1.pdf
        - Topic: Promoting National Security
    - FCC Adopts Rules to Enhance the Integrity of the E-Rate Program
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421319A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-30A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations
    - FCC Proposes to Amend Audible Crawl Rule to Preserve Accessibility
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421320A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-31A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations

May 2026

- (5/4/26) Chairman Carr Announces Six Months of Operation Clean Carts Success
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421450A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Promoting National Security
- (5/11/26) FCC Plans FM Radio Auction
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421586A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-444A1.pdf
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters
- (5/12/26) FCC Secures Win for America's Leadership in Next-Gen Connectivity
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421651A1.pdf

    - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-470A1.pdf https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-26-471A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring U.S. Leadership in Wireless
- (5/15/26) FCC Investigating Potential Fraud in E-Rate Program in Minnesota
    - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421768A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations
- (5/20/2026) May Open Meeting
    - FCC Proposes Enhanced 'Know-Your-Upstream-Provider' Requirements
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421877A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-32A1.pdf
        - Topic: Protecting Consumers
    - FCC to Streamline Broadband Data Collection Processes
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421878A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-33A1.pdf
        - Topic: Broadband Data: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations
    - FCC Modernizes Disaster Information Reporting System
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421880A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-34A1.pdf
        - Topic: Advancing Public Safety
    - FCC Proposes Modernization of High-Cost Program
        - Press Release: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-421882A1.pdf
        - Decisional Document: https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-35A1.pdf
        - Topic: Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations
- (5/27/26) Chairman Carr Presents First 'Build America Hard Hat'
    - Press Release: DOC-422016A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure
- (5/28/2026) FCC Reminds Broadcasters of Their Public Interest Obligations
    - Press Release: DA-26-530A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Empowering Local Broadcasters

June 2026

- (6/2/2026) FCC Kicks Off First Spectrum Auction in Four Years
    - Press Release: DOC-422113A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A

    - Topic: Restoring America’s Leadership in Wireless
- (6/9/2026) Carr Announces Action Against Test Lab Responsible for False Results
    - Press Release: DOC-422289A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-26-569A1.pdf
    - Topic: Promoting National Security
- (6/11/2026) FCC Supporting America's Success as FIFA World Cup Host
    - Press Release: DOC-422317A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: N/A
    - Topic: Advancing Public Safety
- (6/11/2026) FCC Working with States on Effective Pole Attachment Regulation
    - Press Release: DOC-422323A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-26-579A1.pdf
    - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure
- (6/12/2026) FCC Cuts Off Provider That Transmitted Walmart-Impersonation Robocalls
    - Press Release: DOC-422345A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: DA-26-583A1.pdf
    - Topic: Protecting Consumers
- (6/23/2026) FCC Announces Close of Successful Wireless Auction
    - Press Release: DOC-422512A1.pdf
    - Decisional Document: See DA-26-633A1.pdf
    - Topic: Restoring America’s Leadership in Wireless
- (6/25/2026) June 2026 Open Commission Meeting
    - FCC Looks to Streamline Modern, High-Speed Wireline Deployment
        - Press Release: DOC-422572A1.pdf
        - Chairman Statement: DOC-422572A2.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-26-40A1.pdf
        - Topic: Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure
    - FCC to Review E-Rate Program to Ensure it Fulfills Congress's Vision
        - Press Release: DOC-422575A1.pdf
        - Chairman Statement: DOC-422575A2.pdf
        - Decisional Document: FCC-26-41A1.pdf
        - Topic: Protecting Consumers
    - FCC Modernizes Next Generation 911 Reliability and Interoperability
        - Press Release: DOC-422582A1.pdf
        - Chairman Statement: DOC-422582A2.pdf
        - Decisional Document: docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-39A1.pdf
        - Topic: Advancing Public Safety
    - FCC Takes Steps to Modernize the Nation's Alerting Systems
        - Press Release: DOC-422584A1.pdf
        - Chairman Statement: DOC-422584A2.pdf
        - Decisional Document: docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-38A1.pdf
        - Topic: Advancing Public Safety
    - FCC Aims to Accelerate Secure Submarine Cable Infrastructure Buildout
        - Press Release: DOC-422585A1.pdf
        - Chairman Statement: DOC-422585A2.pdf
        - Decisional Document: N/A

- Topic: Promoting National Security

July 2026

From: Kristi Thornton
To: Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Anthony Patrone; Callie Coker
Cc: Eduard Bartholme
Subject: Compliant from Center for American Rights re: Jimmy Kimmel
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 1:01:00 PM
Attachments: image001.png

CICD has received the complaint and attached documents from CAR. You can find the materials here: CAR Kimmel

If you need anything else from us on this, please let me know.

Kristi

Kristi Thompson

From: Katie Gorscak
Sent: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 12:11 PM
To: Brendan Carr; Scott Delacourt; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Adam Jackman
Subject: February Open Meeting Press prep document
Attachments: 2025-02 Open Meeting Press Prep_toOCH.docx

Good afternoon, Chairman and staff:

Attached is a draft press prep document for your review in advance of our afternoon discussion. This is mostly comprised of anticipated questions, based off of what we've been receiving here in OMR and might expect to be asked given the attention these topics have been getting in the news. Given the Chairman's recent interviews on broadcast topics, I've pulled quotes from those interview transcripts to formulate answers to some of those questions.

Please let me know if you have any questions. I will plan to bring copies of this to our 3 p.m. meeting.

Regards,

Katie

From:	Matthew Mittelstaedt
To:	Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Adam Chan; Anthony Patrone; Callie Coker; Allison Howell; Katie McAuliffe; Adam Jackman; Stephanie Chambless
Subject:	Final Testimony
Date:	Monday, December 15, 2025 2:04:24 PM
Attachments:	Testimony of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr 12.17.25.pdf

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As promised in this morning's staffer, for the sake of posterity, I am sharing the final testimony that was transmitted this AM.

Matthew Mittelstaedt

Director
FCC Office of Legislative Affairs
202-(b) (6) | matthew.mittelstaedt@fcc.gov

TESTIMONY OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

"OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION"

BEFORE THE

UNITED STATES SENATE
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

DECEMBER 17, 2025

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the invitation to testify. I am grateful for the opportunity to join with my Commission colleagues today and provide an update on the FCC's work over the last year. I look forward to sharing with you the priorities we have been advancing at the FCC since January.

While this is not my first time testifying before the Commerce Committee, it is my first time appearing before you as Chairman, and there are a number of new members on the Committee since the last FCC oversight hearing in 2020. So I wanted to begin with a brief introduction.

I first joined the FCC as a staffer in 2012 over a dozen years ago. In the time since, I have had the privilege of serving in a number of different roles at the agency. I started out as an attorney in the FCC's Office of General Counsel. I then worked as a legal advisor for a Commissioner. Following that, I served as the General Counsel of the FCC before President Trump nominated me to serve as a Commissioner in 2017. Having been confirmed by the Senate three times, I am very grateful to President Trump for his decision to designate me as Chairman of the FCC earlier this year.

Working alongside my Commission colleagues here today and leading the talented group of public servants at the agency is the honor of a lifetime. I am proud of the work the agency's dedicated staff have been getting done for the American people. And I am especially grateful for their commitment to public service through the recent government shutdown. It is great to have everyone back in the building again.

I would also like to take a moment to recognize the important work that this Committee has accomplished this Congress. Thanks to Chairman Cruz, and many of his fellow Committee Members, the FCC's spectrum auction authority has now been restored through President Trump's One Big Beautiful Bill. When the FCC's auction authority lapsed for the first time ever back in 2023, it put America's global leadership and our connectivity goals at serious risk. I am glad we are correcting course now. I also want to applaud Chairman Cruz and Senator Markey for their leadership on the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act. This legislation will help keep AM

radio—a linchpin of our emergency response system—in place and ensure that Americans can continue to access local news, information, and entertainment programming.

Following President Trump's strong leadership, the FCC has moved quickly to execute on an ambitious set of reforms. We are advancing a Build America Agenda—a concrete plan to unleash high-speed infrastructure builds, drive down prices for consumers, and restore U.S. leadership in wireless. We are reinvigorating the agency's consumer protection work, including its efforts to crack down on illegal robocalls. We are empowering broadcasters to meet their public interest obligations. We are strengthening America's national security and advancing public safety. We are undertaking the largest deregulatory effort in the agency's history. And we are eliminating waste while improving efficiency and modernizing agency operations.

I detailed much of this agenda for the first time on a visit earlier this year to a tower construction company's training center in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. While Sioux Falls might not be everyone's pick for rolling out a policy agenda for a federal agency headquartered in Washington, D.C., I could not think of a more appropriate setting. For one, the communities spread across South Dakota are a great reminder of the types of places we have to keep in mind as we develop connectivity policies back here in Washington. For another, I first visited that facility over seven years earlier—it was the first place that I ever put on a harness and hardhat in this job and climbed a tower. So it was a good reminder of the work ahead for America's broadband builders, and why the FCC's agenda should focus on making their jobs a little bit easier.

As I detailed in those remarks, the FCC's Build America Agenda focuses on a number of core priorities. I would like to provide the Committee with an overview of those goals, and the work the FCC is undertaking to advance them and some of the agency's other top agenda items.

Unleashing High-Speed Infrastructure Builds.

The FCC is working to unleash high-speed infrastructure builds in communities across the country. We are modernizing permitting rules and cutting red tape. This includes making it easier for providers to retire slow and old copper lines and replace them with the modern, high-speed ones that consumers want. We are accelerating and simplifying the process for extending new lines across existing utility poles. And we are pursuing a range of additional steps that can remove barriers to deployment and streamline regulatory approaches. These actions will free up billions of dollars in capital that can go to work closing the digital divide.

At the same time, we are ending the Biden-era regulatory overreaches that only made it harder to build high-speed infrastructure in this country. This year, for instance, the FCC reversed a Biden-era plan that would have slowed down infrastructure builds by subjecting tower builds to additional, needless, and onerous regulations. We also stopped a Biden-era proposal to regulate so-called "bulk billing" arrangements, which could have increased the price of Internet service for Americans living in apartments by as much as 50 percent. And at the very beginning of this year, a federal court invalidated the prior FCC's plan to expand government control of the Internet through heavy-handed, Title II regulation.

Restoring America's Leadership in Wireless.

The FCC has also been working hard to free up airwaves and restore the country's leadership in wireless. This is key because opening up spectrum for more intensive use drives down prices for consumers, brings families across the digital divide, and strengthens competition. But at the beginning of this year, the FCC had a lot of work to do on this front. Our spectrum auction authority had lapsed two years earlier. And there was no pipeline of spectrum for the agency to auction.

Thanks to President Trump's leadership, we are turning things around—and fast. At my very first meeting as FCC Chairman, we started a proceeding to examine ideas for freeing up a large swath of spectrum in the Upper C-band. The White House then initiated a ten-week "spectrum sprint" to study options for lighting up hundreds of megahertz of spectrum. And President Trump leaned in—making it clear that advancing America's 5G and 6G leadership would be a top priority for the Administration.

Chairman Cruz and many members of this Committee then spearheaded the work to pass the spectrum provisions of the One Big Beautiful Bill. Those provisions restored the FCC's auction authority and established a real spectrum pipeline—one with hard deadlines, clearing targets, and candidate bands.

For our part, the One Big Beautiful Bill requires the FCC to auction at least 100 megahertz of spectrum in the Upper C-band by July 2027 and at least 300 megahertz total by 2034. The FCC has been working hard to implement those provisions in coordination with other federal agencies and stakeholders. Indeed, just last month, the Commission voted on a proposal to auction up to 180 megahertz of spectrum in the Upper C-band—exceeding the 100 megahertz minimum set by Congress.

Of course, a lot of work remains ahead on the C-band. Success will require continued interagency coordination, especially with our federal partners at the FAA and NTIA. It also requires extensive cooperation and information sharing between the wireless and aviation sectors. We have been working well with all stakeholders, and I am pleased with the collaboration we've seen to date.

But our work to advance U.S. spectrum leadership is not limited to the Upper C-band or even spectrum auctions alone. In the secondary markets, we are now seeing large swaths of spectrum moving into the hands of competitors that can put it to productive use quickly. On this score, AT&T recently agreed to purchase 50 megahertz of spectrum. And SpaceX has agreed to acquire 60 megahertz more. If approved, the latter transaction could advance America's position as the world-leader in next-generation, direct-to-cell technology. These secondary market moves are already showing results. Indeed, just recently, one carrier announced that they have already built out spectrum they gained access to this year to over 23,000 cell sites in record time—boosting 5G speeds by up to 80 percent.

Boosting America's Space Economy.

President Trump has been clear that the Administration is ushering in a new Golden Age for space innovation in America. And President Trump's leadership could not come at a better time. Our nation is in the midst of what I refer to as a Space Race 2.0. This time around our main competitor is the government of China, which has its sights set on dominating in low-Earth orbit and up and down every orbital location.

To win this second Space Race, the U.S. is going to rely on American innovators. And I have had the chance to see these great businesses firsthand on visits outside the Beltway. Earlier this year, for instance, I visited Midland, Texas, with Chairman Cruz where we saw some of the nation's leading innovators building next-gen satellites in West Texas.

The FCC's efforts on this front are possible thanks to the Executive Order President Trump signed earlier this year to streamline regulations and foster a competitive commercial space industry. The FCC is following the White House's lead. We are looking to add rocket fuel to our space economy and give the private sector a predictable regulatory framework by focusing on four main principles: speed, simplicity, security, and satellite spectrum abundance. We are already clearing out application backlogs and standardizing procedures in furtherance of that agenda.

Strengthening America's Telecom Workers.

I have had the chance to climb towers, splice fiber, and string lines with some of the country's most talented and hardworking telecom crews. So it is important to me that the FCC do its part to strengthen the nation's telecom workforce. I am determined to ensure that our nation's tower and telecom crews are rewarded for their work. And they are poised to benefit greatly from President Trump's leadership and the agency's Build America Agenda.

We are already seeing good results. Over the last year, many communications providers have committed to a range of workforce reforms that will result in a more sustainable environment for America's tower and telecom crews. Providers are now adopting faster payment cycles and fairer pricing metrics. They are minimizing layers of subcontracting, which will allow for greater oversight of crews and stronger safety protections. And they are closing loopholes that allowed foreign, fly-by-night groups to swoop in and undercut U.S. crews. The FCC will continue to look out for American workers.

Reinvigorating the FCC's Consumer Protection Work.

The FCC has been working hard to reinvigorate and modernize our consumer protection work. Of course, the issue the FCC hears about the most through consumer complaints is illegal robocalls. And on this front, the FCC has started a new campaign to tackle illegal robocalls at every point in the call path. For years, the government's efforts in this area have been described as a game of whack-a-mole. When we address one type of scam, or fine a bad actor, another one pops up using a new workaround.

So we are now looking at every portion of the call lifecycle. We are focusing on prevention—stopping bad actors from ever originating calls in the first place. We are pushing carriers to block more illegal robocalls before they reach consumers. We are giving consumers better tools to distinguish legitimate calls from scams. We are looking to curb scam calls that originate outside of the United States by deterring the use of U.S. area codes for calls originating overseas. And we are stepping up enforcement to make sure every provider doing business in the U.S. takes proactive steps to mitigate robocalls. Indeed, on my watch, the FCC has now removed over 1,200 non-compliant voice service providers from the Robocall Mitigation Database, which functionally disconnects them from the U.S. phone network. The FCC will continue to crack down on shady providers using all of the tools at our disposal.

Our work on consumer protection matters also includes our efforts to help Americans access the right resources during a time of crisis. This year, for instance, we adopted rules requiring wireless providers to develop the capability to transmit georouting data when someone sends a text to 988. This means that someone reaching out for help during a crisis will get the localized help they need.

Empowering Local Broadcasters.

The FCC is working to empower local broadcasters to serve the public interest and meet the needs of their communities. As Congress, the Supreme Court, and the FCC have all made clear, broadcasters are different than every other distributor of media. Specifically, broadcasters are required by both the Communications Act and the terms of their FCC-issued licenses to operate in the public interest. This sets them apart from cable channels, podcasts, streaming services, social media, and countless other types of distributors that have no public interest obligation. The FCC's broadcast hoax rule, its news distortion policy, its political equal opportunity regulation, its prohibition on obscene, indecent, and profane content, its localism requirements—all of those and more apply uniquely to broadcasters. Congress has instructed the FCC to enforce public interest requirements on broadcasters. The FCC should do exactly that.

Television broadcasters have this public interest obligation because the government has given them the unique privilege of using a scarce national resource—the public airwaves—and in doing so has necessarily excluded others that might want to broadcast their own programming over that same spectrum. That is why they are required to serve, not just their own narrow interest, but the public interest, including the needs of their local communities.

To ensure that broadcasters can meet their public interest obligations, the FCC has taken a number of actions, including seeking public comment for the first time in more than 15 years on the relationship between the large, national programmers on the one hand and the many local broadcast television stations on the other. Comments in that proceeding suggest that many local broadcasters are concerned that the national programmers have amassed enormous power and influence in recent years and have made it more challenging for local broadcasters to fulfill their public interest obligations.

The FCC is going to continue its efforts to empower local broadcasters to meet their public interest obligations.

Promoting National Security and Advancing Public Safety.

The FCC has significantly ramped up its efforts this year to promote our country's national security and advance public safety. For one, at the beginning of my time as Chairman, I stood up a new Council on National Security within the FCC to leverage all of the agency's authorities, expertise, and relevant workstreams to counter the threats posed by foreign adversaries, including the government of China. This Council is already paying dividends. The FCC cracked down on what we call "Bad Labs"—labs that review and approve electronics for use in the United States, but are owned or controlled by foreign adversary governments. The Council on National Security also executed Operation Clean Carts, which worked with e-commerce platforms to take down millions of listings of devices on the FCC's Covered List or otherwise prohibited for sale in the United States.

And that's not all. In May, the FCC started the process of identifying foreign adversaries that hold licenses or authorizations in the communications sector, in line with the policy of Senator Fischer and Senator Lujan's FACT Act. In August, the FCC adopted new rules on undersea cable security, following President Trump's America First Investment Policy Memorandum. In those rules, we took action to unleash the build out of undersea cables to ensure the U.S. leads the world on AI infrastructure, as the President's AI Action Plan calls for, while mitigating threats to undersea cables from foreign adversaries. In October, the FCC closed two loopholes that provided no check on old models of covered equipment—potential spy gear—to be imported or sold, as well as allowed devices to be approved that contain covered equipment as module components. And most recently, in the wake of SALT Typhoon, the FCC has worked directly with carriers to ensure that they are adapting their cybersecurity practices and hardening their networks against future attacks, including by working with federal partners like the FBI, NSA, and CISA to receive technical assistance on networks, rapidly share information, and working together to strengthen cyber defenses.

Beyond threats from foreign adversaries, the FCC also continues to foster network resilience in the face of natural disasters. My first trip as Chairman of the FCC was to Western North Carolina where I visited several of Hurricane Helene's hardest-hit areas and met with emergency management and public safety officials, telecom crews, broadcasters, and other government representatives that worked to rebuild those communities. In July, we hosted a public roundtable focused on collaboration between communications service providers, electric utilities, and emergency management officials. Following the discussion, we published Cross-Sector Best Practices for Hurricane Season in September focused on disaster recovery, "blue sky" coordination efforts, and mutual cross-sector aid and assistance, building on the work of the Mandatory Disaster Response Initiative.

Earlier this year, the FCC also began the process of a ground-up re-examination of the national alert and warning systems, including the Emergency Alert System and Wireless Emergency Alerts. The underlying frameworks of these systems are 31 and 13 years old, respectively, so it is important to ensure the FCC is leveraging the latest technology to save lives.

The FCC has also worked to strengthen and modernize our Nation's public safety systems. In March, the FCC proposed requirements to improve location precision for 911 callers in multistory buildings. We also moved forward with a proposal that would make the transition from legacy 911 to NG911 effective and reliable without creating new vulnerabilities in critical public safety networks.

Streamlining Regulations and Modernizing Agency Operations.

Right now, the FCC is also undertaking the largest deregulatory initiative in the agency's history. At the beginning of my tenure as Chairman, I launched an effort titled "In Re: Delete, Delete, Delete." Since then, the FCC has been reviewing every rule, regulation, and guidance document for the purpose of eliminating unnecessary regulatory burdens, and we sought feedback from stakeholders to get their perspectives as well.

I am now pleased to report that to date the FCC has removed or teed up for removal 1,108 rules and regulations, 134,928 words, and 312 pages of the Code of Federal Regulations. The FCC has also worked to close out inactive dockets and has terminated a record 2,048 inactive proceedings. These initiatives further the Commission's goal of promoting good governance, increasing efficiency, and modernizing agency processes.

Improving efficiency at the FCC does not stop with examining the CFR and open FCC dockets. We are also working to be good stewards of the taxpayers' funds. In Fiscal Year 2025, we generated millions of dollars in savings by eliminating or modifying unnecessary contracts. We also brought agency staff back into the building to foster in-person collaboration to deliver on the FCC's mission.

As you can tell, the FCC and its hardworking staff have been moving fast to deliver great results for the American people this year. I thank them for their dedicated service. And I look forward to the important work ahead.

* * *

In closing, I want to thank you again Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and Members of the Committee for holding this hearing and for the opportunity to testify. I look forward to answering your questions.

From: Danielle Thumann
To: Erin Boone; Greg Watson
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL]: Letter to Chairman Carr
Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 3:34:33 PM
Attachments: FINAL #DefendThePress Letter to FCC Chair Brendan Carr.pdf

---

FYSA

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Daiquiri Ryan Mercado <daiquiri@nhmc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 3:03 PM
To: Katie McAuliffe <Katie.McAuliffe@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Cc: Brenda Castillo <bcastillo@nhmc.org>; Arianna Rodriguez <adminmanager@nhmc.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Letter to Chairman Carr

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Hi Katie and Danielle,

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to flag a letter NHMC and 20+ civil rights and advocacy allies just filed via ECFS to Chairman Carr. I've attached the letter here for your convenience. Please feel free to reach out to me directly with any questions.

Logo

Daiquiri Ryan Mercado, Esq.
Director of Advocacy

mobile: (b) (6) [redacted]
email: daiquiri@nhmc.org
Washington, DC

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Sent via Superhuman

October 8, 2025

Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr,

In recent months, the American public has witnessed increasingly brazen examples of President Trump abusing his power to attack Americans' constitutional rights, erode the Rule of Law, and advance his own personal and financial interests at the expense of the public interest. The undersigned organizations represent a broad and diverse group of people in the United States, and we write to express our deep alarm and condemnation of recent Federal Communications Commission actions that are aiding and abetting this pattern of authoritarian conduct.

President Trump's unconstitutional and un-American attacks on the free press are hardly new. His second term, however, has seen these unseemly rhetorical attacks accompanied by an unprecedented weaponization of the FCC's regulatory authority against television broadcasters to gain leverage in personal legal matters, extract financial settlement payments, and intimidate their news divisions to silence dissenting views and critical coverage.

The President has repeatedly called for ABC[1], NBC[2], and CBS[3] to lose their broadcast licenses in response to what he deems unfair coverage. While the President is entitled to his opinions as a media critic, the First Amendment clearly prohibits government officials from abusing federal power to silence, censor, or intimidate news media organizations. We recognize, just as our Founders did nearly 250 years ago, that a free and open press is Democracy's last and best defense against tyranny. Your Democratic and Republican predecessors had the courage to defend this fundamental American value, publicly rejecting calls to regulate or punish broadcasters for their perceived political views.[4] You too affirmed this principle in 2021, stating: "A newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should be beyond the reach of any government official, not targeted by them."[5]

Yet the Commission appears to have fully abandoned this principle in its review and approval of Skydance Media's recent acquisition of Paramount Global, including CBS News and Stations. As you know, President Trump – acting in his personal capacity – filed a $10 billion lawsuit against CBS in late October, alleging that routine editing of a 60 Minutes interview with Vice President Kamala Harris amounted to "Election Interference and Fraud." Trump's lawsuit was widely panned as "legally groundless,"[6]

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[1] Fox & Friends: Interview With Donald Trump, Season 1, Episode 7 (Fox Nation, released September 11, 2024), https://nation.foxnews.com/watch/0b4945c117519626995f180d8cd80056/, ("To be honest, they [ABC] are a news organization, they have to be licensed. They ought to take away their license for the way they did that.")

[2] Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social, (Jul 26, 2025, 8:14 PM), https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/114922310106523572 ("Networks aren't allowed to be political pawns for the Democrat Party. It has become so outrageous that, in my opinion, their licenses could, and should, be revoked! MAGA").

[3] Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (October 17, 2024, 1:07 PM), https://trumpstruth.org/statuses/27457 ("60 Minutes is a major part of the News Organization of CBS, which has just created the Greatest Fraud in Broadcast History. CBS should lose its license, and it should be bid out to the Highest Bidder, as should all other Broadcast Licenses, because they are just as corrupt as CBS — and maybe even WORSE!").

[4] Margaret Harding McGill, *FCC chairman defends First Amendment after Trump broadcaster threats*, Politico, October 17, 2017, https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/17/trump-nbc-license-fcc-ajit-pai-response-243865; Anna Betts, *Outgoing FCC chair rejects TV bias complaints that 'curtail press freedom'*, The Guardian, January 16, 2025, https://www.politico.com/story/2017/10/17/trump-nbc-license-fcc-ajit-pai-response-243865.

[5] Statement of then-FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, February 22, 2021, https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370165A1.pdf?utm.

[6] Jonathan Turley, "No, Trump Should Not Sue CBS," October 20, 2024, https://jonathanturley.org/2024/10/20/no-trump-should-not-sue-cbs/.

"frivolous and dangerous,"[7] and "ridiculous junk"[8] by legal experts from across the political spectrum. Yet the Commission withheld its approval of the transaction until CBS capitulated and agreed to pay $16 million. Moreover, the Commission's eventual approval was conditioned on CBS accepting unprecedented and unconstitutional infringements on its editorial independence, including the hiring of a "bias monitor" to police alleged unfairness toward President Trump and his allies.

With CBS now effectively coerced into self-censorship, we're troubled by recent Commission actions appearing to aim for similar outcomes at ABC and NBC. In letters sent to the Walt Disney Company (December 21, 2024)[9] and Comcast Corporation (July 29, 2025),[10] you warned of potential FCC intervention in ABC's and NBC's relationships with affiliated broadcast stations. Neither letter identified any statutory authority for such intervention. Nor did they offer any economic rationale why corporate broadcast groups, some of which own more than 100 stations apiece and rake in billions of dollars a year, would require or warrant the FCC's assistance in standard business negotiations.

Absent any valid statutory authority, and in light of President Trump's repeated attacks on these networks and calls to put them out of business – and your own media appearances cheering on his attacks on "these legacy broadcast media outfits and the New York and Hollywood elites"[11] – these letters read as thinly-veiled shakedown threats: Nice business you've got there. It'd be a shame if anything happened to it.

Let us be clear: The FCC has no lawful authority to influence network newsrooms' editorial decisions. The FCC has no lawful authority to coerce networks' parent companies to pay millions of dollars to the President (or to a non-profit "library foundation" controlled by one of the President's sons[12]) as a condition of doing

---

[7] Rashard Rose and Jon Passantino, *Trump sues CBS over '60 Minutes' interview with Harris. Legal experts call it 'frivolous and dangerous'*, CNN, November 1, 2024, https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/01/media/trump-cbs-lawsuit-harris-60-minutes-interview.
[8] *Id*.
[9] Letter from Brendan Carr, Commissioner, FCC, to Bob Iger, CEO, The Walt Disney Company (Dec. 21, 2024),https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/Carr-Letter-to-Disney-12212024.pdf.
[10] Letter from Brendan Carr, Chairman, FCC, to Brian Roberts, CEO, Comcast (July 29, 2025), https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/carr-letter-comcast-july2025.pdf.
[11] Transcript, FCC Chairman Carr's interview on Fox News Channel's America's Newsroom, July 24, 2025, https://www.foxnews.com/media/fcc-chairman-sounds-clarion-call-return-unbiased-trustworthy-journalism.
[12] David A. Fahrenthold and Maggie Haberman, *Eric Trump Starts Nonprofit to Build His Father's Presidential Library*, The New York Times, May 23, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/us/elections/eric-trump-presidential-library-foundation.html.

business. These are the actions of lawless authoritarians – not of honorable public servants.

As Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, your sworn duty is to the Constitution – not to any President. We urge you to speak up, as your predecessors have done and you yourself were once willing to do, in defense of the First Amendment and the Rule of Law. Affirm unequivocally that the FCC will no longer serve as the enforcer in President Trump's unconstitutional shakedowns of media organizations. Your oath of office demands nothing less.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Castillo
President & CEO
National Hispanic Media Coalition

John Yang
President and Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Rosario Palacios
Executive Director
Common Cause Georgia

David Bowles
Co-founder
#DignidadLiteraria

Noreen Farrell
Executive Director
Equal Rights Advocates

Kathy Spillar
Executive Director
Feminist Majority Foundation

Seth Stern
Director of Advocacy
Freedom of the Press Foundation

Seia Watanabe
Vice President of Public Affairs
Japanese American Citizens League

Julián Castro
CEO
Latino Community Foundation

Fanny Grande
Chairwoman
Latino Excellence Project

Toni Kirkpatrick
Chair
Latinx in Publishing

Dr. Ray Serrano
National Director of Research and Policy
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Amy L. Hinojosa
President and CEO
MANA, A National Latina Organization

Steven Renderos
Executive Director
MediaJustice

Derrick Johnson
President and CEO
NAACP

Ebonie Riley
SVP, National Action Network Washington Bureau
National Action Network

Diana Luna
Executive Director
National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP)

Felix Sanchez
Founder & Chair
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

Marc H. Morial
President & CEO
National Urban League

Ja'Lia Taylor, Ph.D., MSIS
Director of Policy, Telecommunications, and Technology
NCNW

Joel M. Gonzales
President
Nosotros

Thu Nguyen
Executive Director
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates

Christopher Lewis
President and CEO
Public Knowledge

Kiran Gill
Executive Director
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)

Maya Wiley
President and CEO
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

From: Danielle Thumann
To: Erin Boone; Greg Watson
Subject: Fw: [EXTERNAL]: Letter to Chairman Carr
Date: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 4:18:42 PM
Attachments: FINAL2 #DefendThePress Letter to FCC Chair Brendan Carr (4).pdf

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Updated version of the same "#defendthepress" letter.

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Daiquiri Ryan Mercado <daiquiri@nhmc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 4:12 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Cc: Katie McAuliffe <Katie.McAuliffe@fcc.gov>; Brenda Castillo <bcastillo@nhmc.org>; Arianna Rodriguez <adminmanager@nhmc.org>
Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL]: Letter to Chairman Carr

Apologies for the double email. Attached is the corrected version of the letter with the full signature block. Thank you!

Logo

Daiquiri Ryan Mercado, Esq.
Director of Advocacy

mobile: 972.963.0827
email: daiquiri@nhmc.org
Washington, DC

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Sent via Superhuman

On Wed, Oct 08, 2025 at 3:34 PM, Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov> wrote:

> Thank you, Daiquiri. We will pass this along to our colleagues.
>
> Best regards,
> Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Daiquiri Ryan Mercado <daiquiri@nhmc.org>
Sent: Wednesday, October 8, 2025 3:03 PM
To: Katie McAuliffe <Katie.McAuliffe@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Cc: Brenda Castillo <bcastillo@nhmc.org>; Arianna Rodriguez <adminmanager@nhmc.org>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: Letter to Chairman Carr

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Hi Katie and Danielle,

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Logo

Daiquiri Ryan Mercado, Esq.
Director of Advocacy

mobile: 972.963.0827
email: daiquiri@nhmc.org
Washington, DC

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Sent via Superhuman





















































October 8, 2025

Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr,

In recent months, the American public has witnessed increasingly brazen examples of President Trump abusing his power to attack Americans' constitutional rights, erode the Rule of Law, and advance his own personal and financial interests at the expense of the public interest. The undersigned organizations represent a broad and diverse group of people in the United States, and we write to express our deep alarm and condemnation of recent Federal Communications Commission actions that are aiding and abetting this pattern of authoritarian conduct.

President Trump's unconstitutional and un-American attacks on the free press are hardly new. His second term, however, has seen these unseemly rhetorical attacks accompanied by an unprecedented weaponization of the FCC's regulatory authority against television broadcasters to gain leverage in personal legal matters, extract financial settlement payments, and intimidate their news divisions to silence dissenting views and critical coverage.

The President has repeatedly called for ABC[1], NBC[2], and CBS[3] to lose their broadcast licenses in response to what he deems unfair coverage. While the President is entitled to his opinions as a media critic, the First Amendment clearly prohibits government officials from abusing federal power to silence, censor, or intimidate news media organizations. We recognize, just as our Founders did nearly 250 years ago, that a free and open press is Democracy's last and best defense against tyranny. Your Democratic and Republican predecessors had the courage to defend this fundamental American value, publicly rejecting calls to regulate or punish broadcasters for their perceived political views.[4] You too affirmed this principle in 2021, stating: "A newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should be beyond the reach of any government official, not targeted by them."[5]

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[1] Fox & Friends: Interview With Donald Trump, Season 1, Episode 7 (Fox Nation, released September 11, 2024), https://nation.foxnews.com/watch/0b4945c117519626995f180d8cd80056/, ("To be honest, they [ABC] are a news organization, they have to be licensed. They ought to take away their license for the way they did that.")

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[3] Donald Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (October 17, 2024, 1:07 PM), https://trumpstruth.org/statuses/27457 ("60 Minutes is a major part of the News Organization of CBS, which has just created the Greatest Fraud in Broadcast History. CBS should lose its license, and it should be bid out to the Highest Bidder, as should all other Broadcast Licenses, because they are just as corrupt as CBS — and maybe even WORSE!").

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[5] Statement of then-FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, February 22, 2021, https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370165A1.pdf?utm.

[6] Jonathan Turley, "No, Trump Should Not Sue CBS," October 20, 2024, https://jonathanturley.org/2024/10/20/no-trump-should-not-sue-cbs/.

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[7] Rashard Rose and Jon Passantino, *Trump sues CBS over '60 Minutes' interview with Harris. Legal experts call it 'frivolous and dangerous'*, CNN, November 1, 2024, https://www.cnn.com/2024/11/01/media/trump-cbs-lawsuit-harris-60-minutes-interview.
[8] *Id*.
[9] Letter from Brendan Carr, Commissioner, FCC, to Bob Iger, CEO, The Walt Disney Company (Dec. 21, 2024),https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/Carr-Letter-to-Disney-12212024.pdf.
[10] Letter from Brendan Carr, Chairman, FCC, to Brian Roberts, CEO, Comcast (July 29, 2025), https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/carr-letter-comcast-july2025.pdf.
[11] Transcript, FCC Chairman Carr's interview on Fox News Channel's America's Newsroom, July 24, 2025, https://www.foxnews.com/media/fcc-chairman-sounds-clarion-call-return-unbiased-trustworthy-journalism.
[12] David A. Fahrenthold and Maggie Haberman, *Eric Trump Starts Nonprofit to Build His Father's Presidential Library*, The New York Times, May 23, 2025, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/05/23/us/elections/eric-trump-presidential-library-foundation.html.

business. These are the actions of lawless authoritarians – not of honorable public servants.

As Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, your sworn duty is to the Constitution – not to any President. We urge you to speak up, as your predecessors have done and you yourself were once willing to do, in defense of the First Amendment and the Rule of Law. Affirm unequivocally that the FCC will no longer serve as the enforcer in President Trump's unconstitutional shakedowns of media organizations. Your oath of office demands nothing less.

Sincerely,

Brenda V. Castillo
President & CEO
National Hispanic Media Coalition

John Yang
President and Executive Director
Asian Americans Advancing Justice | AAJC

Rosario Palacios
Executive Director
Common Cause Georgia

David Bowles
Co-founder
#DignidadLiteraria

Noreen Farrell
Executive Director
Equal Rights Advocates

Kathy Spillar
Executive Director
Feminist Majority Foundation

Jessica J. González
Co-CEO
Free Press

Seth Stern
Director of Advocacy
Freedom of the Press Foundation

Seia Watanabe
Vice President of Public Affairs
Japanese American Citizens League

Julián Castro
CEO
Latino Community Foundation

Fanny Grande
Chairwoman
Latino Excellence Project

Toni Kirkpatrick
Chair
Latinx in Publishing

Dr. Ray Serrano
National Director of Research and Policy
League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC)

Amy L. Hinojosa
President and CEO
MANA, A National Latina Organization

Steven Renderos
Executive Director
MediaJustice

Derrick Johnson
President and CEO
NAACP

Ebonie Riley
SVP, National Action Network Washington Bureau
National Action Network

Diana Luna
Executive Director
National Association of Latino Independent Producers (NALIP)

Felix Sanchez
Founder & Chair
National Hispanic Foundation for the Arts

Marc H. Morial
President & CEO
National Urban League

Ja'Lia Taylor, Ph.D., MSIS
Director of Policy, Telecommunications, and Technology
NCNW

Joel M. Gonzales
President
Nosotros

Thu Nguyen
Executive Director
OCA-Asian Pacific American Advocates

Christopher Lewis
President and CEO
Public Knowledge

Kiran Gill
Executive Director
Sikh American Legal Defense and Education Fund (SALDEF)

Maya Wiley
President and CEO
The Leadership Conference on Civil and Human Rights

Kristi Thompson

From: Greg Watson
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 1:58 PM
To: Brendan Carr; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann
Subject: FW: [EXTERNAL]: MAD Urges FCC to Adopt 'Bright-Line Test' Before Trump's FCC Weaponizes Media Regulation

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From: Tayloe, Monty <mtayloe@warren-news.com>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 1:54 PM
To: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>
Subject: [EXTERNAL]: MAD Urges FCC to Adopt 'Bright-Line Test' Before Trump's FCC Weaponizes Media Regulation

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Hi Greg,

I'm writing up something short on this MAD filing against WTXF, but they mention Commissioner Carr in it so I wanted to see if you folks wanted to respond or comment.

Thanks,
Monty

From: Aaron Alberico <aaron@alberico.co>
Sent: Tuesday, November 19, 2024 8:57 AM
To: Tayloe, Monty <mtayloe@warren-news.com>
Subject: MAD Urges FCC to Adopt 'Bright-Line Test' Before Trump's FCC Weaponizes Media Regulation

Hi Monty,

In one of his first tweets after being named Trump's FCC Chair, Brendan Carr posted a veiled threat aimed at broadcasters. Before the incoming administration can weaponize the FCC against networks like CBS and ABC, the Media and Democracy Project (MAD) is calling on the Commission to take action. MAD is urging the FCC to establish a "bright-line" test by holding a hearing on the broadcast license renewal for FOX 29 Philadelphia.

In their filing, a bipartisan coalition of prominent former FCC officials, legal experts, and media advocates stated: "In its entire history, the Commission has never been confronted with an applicant for a broadcast license recently found by a court of law to have knowingly and repeatedly presented false news. That this is unprecedented does not make it controversial."

The group argues:

- "There is nothing controversial or political about holding a hearing regarding a broadcast license applicant who has recently been found by a court of law to have knowingly and repeatedly presented false news."
- "This Commission has a legacy enhancing opportunity to establish a bright-line test between (1) a timely filed Petition to Deny grounded solidly on a judicial finding and (2) random gripes by political figures regarding questions in a debate or editing in an interview."

The full press release includes additional quotes from MAD and former Murdoch lobbyist Preston Padden. Preston is available for interviews, and I can offer a slate of experts willing to discuss how this petition differs from Trump's complaints against CBS and ABC.

Thanks,
Aaron

*****PRESS RELEASE*****

Media and Democracy Project Urges FCC to Establish a 'Bright-Line Test' with Hearing on FOX Affiliate's Broadcast License

Petition to Deny WTXF License Renewal Is Neither 'Controversial' nor 'Political' and Presents FCC with Opportunity to Define Public Interest Standard

Washington, D.C. | November 19, 2024 — Today, the Media and Democracy Project (MAD), joined by a bipartisan coalition of prominent former FCC officials, legal experts, and media advocates, **filed further comments** with the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) urging the agency to designate the WTXF-TV broadcast license application for a hearing. In its filing, the coalition asserts that this matter is not controversial nor political and that action by the Commission is a straightforward application of its statutory obligations.

"Our petition is not about speech or political slant—it's about the deliberate business decision by the Murdochs and Fox to lie to the American people about the 2020 election to protect the company's profits," said **Brian Hansbury, Co-Founder of the Media and Democracy Project.** "That decision cannot be squared with the character requirements of the Communications Act, and the FCC has the opportunity to prove that its public interest policy matters."

The filing argues that this case is "easily distinguishable from routine complaints by politicians about the political slant of a particular channel or classic journalistic prerogatives." The group calls for the Commission to establish a "bright-line test to provide clear guidance on when a hearing is required." The filing continues, "[p]roviding this guidance also would be a crowning addition to this Commission's legacy."

"Commissioner Carr's recent threat against the broadcast industry (an echo of Trump's threat against ABC and CBS – against whom there has been no judicial finding) illustrates the importance of this commission adopting

a more clear bright line test that invokes the character provision of the communications act only after there has been a judicial finding," said **former Murdoch lobbyist Preston Padden**. "If the FCC fails to act, it risks setting a dangerous precedent that undermines its own authority and the public's trust in broadcast media."

In urging Commission action, the group also called on the FCC to pay particular attention to three passages from earlier informal comments:

1. In an **earlier filing** from **Former FCC Chairman Alfred Sikes**, the radio station owner recounted preparing his first application for a station license. It required him to commit to operate in the 'public interest.' He recalled wondering whether that language was "just some bureaucratic construct or a legally enforceable requirement." Later, after serving as Chairman of the Commission, he notes that "the answer is still elusive."
2. In an informal objection, **Former FCC Commissioner Ervin S. Duggan and former Editor of *The Weekly Standard* Bill Kristol**, cited Judge Davis's findings in US Dominion, Inc. v. Fox News Network, emphasizing that Fox's behavior "is not consistent with the FCC's character requirements for broadcast licensees who are supposed to operate their stations in the public interest first and foremost." The pair continued, "given that the Murdoch/Fox lies contributed to the January 6 riot in the Capitol and duped millions of Americans into believing that the election was stolen, their actions shocked the conscience."
3. In informal comments from **preeminent defender of media First Amendment rights, Floyd Abrams**, he recounted his long history of serving as counsel to media organizations whose First Amendment rights were threatened. Notwithstanding that history, Abrams states, "but knowing and repeated distortion of information about a forthcoming election is precisely what a broadcaster may not do, and that the Commission may consider in determining whether license renewal is appropriate."

The joint informal comments were filed by Brian Hansbury, MAD's Co-founder; Alfred Sikes, former Republican Chairman of the FCC, Ervin S. Duggan, former Democratic FCC Commissioner and former PBS President, William Kristol, longtime Editor of The Weekly Standard, William Reyner, longtime lead regulatory and commercial outside counsel To Murdoch/Fox, and Preston Padden, former executive of Fox Broadcasting Company and former lead lobbyist for Rupert Murdoch/News Corporation/Fox.

A copy of the informal comments is available here. A link to a timeline of MAD's petition is available here.

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The Media and Democracy Project: MAD is a non-partisan, all-volunteer, grassroots organization focused on strengthening a free and independent media in the public interest. MAD aims to improve our national discourse so that American voters can engage in informed decision-making. As part of that goal, MAD has an interest in the responsibility of journalists and media to report fully, accurately, and fairly on the electoral process and the outcome of elections. Additional information is available at www.MediaAndDemocracyProject.Org.

To sign up for more information from The Media and Democracy Project, click here.

Media Contact
Raynor Ave.
Aaron Alberico

202-744-0786
aalberico@raynoravenue.com

Aaron Alberico
202.744.0786

Aaron Alberico
202.744.0786

From: Brendan Carr
To: Benjamin Arden
Cc: Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann
Subject: Fw: Broadcast reform proposal and timelines
Date: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 4:36:48 PM

From: Nathan Simington <Nathan.Simington@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, January 8, 2025 4:01 PM
To: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Subject: Broadcast reform proposal and timelines

Good afternoon, Brendan—

Here are my proposals for rhetorical framing, a 100-days agenda, and long-term planning, together with procedural postures. (b) (5)

[redacted]

All the best,
Nathan

(b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5) [redacted]


(b) (5)

(b) (5)

[redacted]

—
Commissioner Nathan Simington
nathan.simington@fcc.gov
202-(b) (6)

From: Danielle Thumann
To: Danielle Thumann (b) (6)
Subject: Fw: Chairman Letters Senate
Date: Friday, July 31, 2026 3:23:55 PM
Attachments: 26-359MI.pdf
25-51MI.pdf
25-69MI.pdf
25-73MI.pdf
25-106MI.pdf
25-160MI.pdf
25-162MI.pdf
25-219MI.pdf
25-227MI.pdf
25-328MI.pdf
26-250MI.pdf
26-252MI.pdf
26-253MI.pdf
26-254MI.pdf
26-257MI.pdf
26-262MI.pdf
26-267MI.pdf
26-332MI.pdf

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Connor Glisson <Connor.Glisson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Friday, July 31, 2026 2:36 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Cc: Alethea Lewis <Alethea.Lewis@fcc.gov>
Subject: Chairman Letters Senate

Hi Danielle,

Attached and below are the 18 Senate letters Chairman Carr has received under this administration. Please let us know if you need anything else on this.

Here is a link to the attached files in a K Drive folder.
https://outlook.office.com/local/path/file://fccnet/fccroot/data/Co-Share/OLA/Chair%20Correspondence

Alethea cc'd here is the expert on all things Congressional correspondence.

Best,

Connor Glisson
Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission

connor.glisson@fcc.gov | 202-716-6335

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

January 30, 2025

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear Chairman Carr,

Thank you for your leadership at the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC"). I am writing to bring attention to an issue critically impacting Tennessee's content creators, particularly its songwriters and music community.

Federal law prohibits radio stations from accepting payment for airtime without disclosing the transaction—a practice commonly known as "payola."[1] As you know, the FCC considers payola a violation of the Sponsorship Identification Rules.[2]

From what we have learned, it appears that to sidestep these restrictions, radio stations and networks have adopted a troubling new tactic. Instead of demanding cash or lavish perks from record labels in exchange for airplay, they now pressure artists to perform "free radio shows"—also referred to as "listener appreciation shows" or "charitable concert events."

We have heard the new scheme works in this manner: radio stations and networks offer more airtime for an artist's songs if the artist performs a free show. There is often an implicit suggestion that declining to perform could result in reduced airplay. Radio stations and networks often receive the financial benefit of these shows through ticket sales, sponsorships, and other income while the artists and record labels frequently absorb the expense.

This forced quid pro quo applies to essentially all artists, regardless of their level of success. Artists in the industry have told me that it is not unusual for them to perform anywhere from 10 to 50 such shows in any given year. Those just starting out in their career will often perform more, while those that have had more success will have to perform fewer, but they will still be expected to do them.

[1] 47 U.S.C. § 317
[2] FCC Sponsorship Identification; List Retention; Related Requirements, 47 C.F.R § 73.1212 (1975).

This practice is exploitative and should not be tolerated. Federal law and FCC rules prohibit radio stations from receiving undisclosed compensation for broadcasting songs, and this principle must extend to free performances for radio stations and networks. Artists should not be extorted into providing free labor in exchange for airplay.

I urge you to take swift action to end this abuse and protect our music community. Thank you for your attention to this pressing matter.

Sincerely,



Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

United States Senate

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February 12, 2025

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Nathan Simington
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr and Commissioner Simington,

We write to express our serious concern about the recent actions taken by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) under Chairman Carr to open or reopen investigations into broadcasting companies without any evidence of wrongdoing in what appears to be an attempt to intimidate broadcasters for political purposes. Specifically, we are concerned by both of your recent assertions that broadcast stations could be investigated over their editorial decision-making, which raises concerns under the First Amendment. Additionally, we are deeply concerned that in just the first two weeks under Chairman Carr, the Commission has reinstated three previously closed complaints against ABC, CBS, and NBC — absent any new evidence — without also reinstating a similar complaint against a Fox broadcasting station. Finally, we are troubled by your announced investigation into PBS and National Public Radio (NPR) member stations without any evidence that these news sources have departed from decades-long practices for sponsorship disclosures. Taken together, these efforts appear politically motivated and designed to punish, censor or intimidate members of the free press based on political disagreement with editorial choices. This weaponization of the FCC is unacceptable. We urge you to immediately cease such conduct and respect the First Amendment.

In the heat of the presidential election last fall, you both made statements that appeared to threaten the independence of CBS-affiliated broadcasters. In October 2024, after CBS aired excerpts from an interview of then-Vice President Kamala Harris on its programs *60 Minutes* and *Face the Nation*, you both said that such action could violate the Commission's little-used news distortion policy, suggested that an ensuing complaint against CBS could be legitimate, and

pressured CBS to release a transcript of the interview.[1] In November, Chairman-designee Carr suggested that this complaint would be a factor in the Commission's review of the proposed merger of Skydance Media and Paramount Global, CBS' parent company.[2] And two weeks into office, after Chairman Carr requested and publicly released the full transcript of the *60 Minutes* interview, the FCC opened a docket to accept comments on the complaint.[3] These actions are inappropriate because the FCC's news distortion policy states that the Commission will only intervene in a news distortion complaint if the complainant provides "documented evidence" — such as "testimony from persons who have direct personal knowledge of an intentional falsification of the news" — that the broadcaster deliberately intended to mislead viewers or listeners.[4] No evidence exists with respect to the *60 Minutes* interview. In fact, the transcript shows that the different excerpts were answers to the same question — a quintessential example of editorial decision-making. Without any evidence of wrongdoing, these statements and actions are nothing more than a fishing expedition, creating a veneer of government legitimacy for a pressure campaign against independent journalism.

More recently, you both have continued to make comments and suggest that the FCC, under the Trump administration, will wield its authority to target broadcasters. For example, in a CNBC interview in December, Chairman Carr was asked about stripping stations of their broadcast licenses over their supposed liberal bias. We are concerned that in his response, Chairman Carr did not reaffirm broadcasters' first amendment rights, but rather said that broadcast licenses are "not sacred cows."[5] In late January, after a California radio station reported on an Immigration and Customs Enforcement raid, Commissioner Simington said that the FCC "does care about the knowing broadcasting of information that's likely to incite imminent lawless activity"[6] — even though the FCC's own policy states that regulation of the incitement of imminent lawless action "is generally performed by the appropriate criminal law enforcement authorities, not by the FCC."[7] Such statements suggest that the Commission will use the veneer of its public interest authority to punish broadcasters for their editorial decision-making and represent a serious threat to independent journalism and free speech.

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[1] See Kristen Altus, *FCC commissioner urges CBS to release the transcript from Harris' '60 Minutes' interview*, N.Y. Post (Oct. 23, 2024), https://nypost.com/2024/10/23/media/fcc-commissioner-brendan-carrm-urges-cbs-release-kamala-harris-60-minutes-interview-transcript/; Fox News, *FCC Commissioner says complaint against CBS over its "60 Minutes" editing controversy isn't 'ridiculous'* (Oct. 17, 2024), https://www.foxnews.com/video/6363393596112.

[2] Ted Johnson *Incoming FCC Chairman Brendan Carr Says '60 Minutes' Complaint "Likely To Arise" As Part Of Agency Review Of Skydance-Paramount Merger*, Deadline (Nov. 19, 2024), https://deadline.com/2024/11/fcc-brendan-carr-60-minutes-cbs-paramount-1236181250/.

[3] Press Release, Federal Communications Commission, FCC Seeks Comment on WCBS News Distortion Complaint (Feb. 5, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-107A1.pdf.

[4] Federal Communications Commission, *Broadcast News Distortion* (last updated July 18, 2024), https://www.fcc.gov/broadcast-news-distortion.

[5] CNBC, *Tech's actions on censorship will matter more than words, says Trump's FCC pick Brendan Carr* (Dec. 6, 2024), https://www.cnbc.com/video/2024/12/06/techs-actions-on-censorship-will-matter-more-than-words-says-trumps-fcc-pick-brendan-carr.html.

[6] Gabby Miller, *We spoke with the Senate 'AI Gang.' Here's what they want from Congress.*, POLITICO (Jan. 29, 2025).

[7] Federal Communications Commission, *The Public and Broadcasting* (last revised Sept. 2021), https://www.fcc.gov/media/radio/public-and-broadcasting.

Finally, in two of Chairman Carr's first acts as head of the Commission, he seemingly attempted to use the Commission's authority over broadcasters in a politically motivated manner. First, he reinstated three complaints against ABC-, CBS-, and NBC-affiliated stations — brought by a right-wing advocacy organization — without reinstating a similar challenge against a Fox-affiliated station.[8] All four challenges related to editorial decision-making with respect to either the 2024 (ABC, CBS, NBC) or 2020 (Fox) presidential elections, and all four were dismissed on the same day by Chairman Carr's predecessor, Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel. Chairman Carr took this action even though the complaints against the ABC, CBS, and NBC affiliates lack any evidence of wrongdoing, while a federal court previously determined that Fox News — the cable network under common control of the Fox affiliate — intentionally spread false news about the 2020 presidential election.[9] While we take no position on the Fox challenge, the reinstatement of the ABC, CBS, and NBC complaints without the reinstatement of the Fox challenge appears to be a naked attempt to target networks upon baseless allegations of bias or personal or political disagreement with editorial choices.

Second, Chairman Carr directed the Enforcement Bureau to open an investigation into PBS and NPR member stations over their underwriting practices.[10] Yet, Chairman Carr's letter cites no complaint or evidence motivating this investigation. After baselessly stating that he will open an investigation into the practices of roughly 1,500-member stations, Chairman Carr goes out of his way to encourage Congress to defund NPR and PBS, a partisan political goal of congressional Republicans that is outside the FCC's jurisdiction.[11] Rather than pursuing an objective, evidence-based investigation, this Carr-driven FCC inquiry seems designed to intimidate public broadcasters that our communities have relied on for decades to provide essential education, public safety, civic leadership, news, information and community programming to all Americans. This abuse of the FCC's enforcement tools for partisan political ends — less than two weeks into Chairman Carr's tenure as head of the Commission — is deeply alarming.

Taken together, your statements and actions over the past few months appear politically motivated and intended to attack independent media at the behest of President Donald Trump. This weaponization of the FCC runs counter to its history and, coming from two government officials, represents a serious threat to freedom of the press under the First Amendment. Furthermore, these threats will create a serious chilling effect: media organizations have already succumbed to pressure from Donald Trump by settling lawsuits to avoid any retribution,[12] and

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[8] David Shepardson, *FCC reinstates complaints against ABC, CBS and NBC for 2024 election coverage,* Reuters (Jan. 23, 2025), https://www.reuters.com/business/media-telecom/fcc-reinstates-complaints-over-abc-presidential-debate-harris-tv-appearances-2025-01-22/.

[9] *US Dominion, Inc. v. Fox News Network, LLC*, 2023 WL 2730567, *21 (Del. Super. Ct. 2023) ("The evidence developed in this civil proceeding demonstrates . . . that none of the Statements relating to Dominion about the 2020 election are true. Therefore, the Court will grant summary judgment in favor of Dominion on the element of falsity.").

[10] Letter from FCC Chairman Brendan Carr to Katherine Maher, President and Chief Executive Officer, National Public Radio, and Paula A. Kerger, President and Chief Executive Officer, PBS (Jan. 29, 2025).

[11] *Id.* at 2 ("For my own part, I do not see a reason why Congress should continue sending taxpayer dollars to NPR and PBS given the changes in the media marketplace since the passage of the Public Broadcasting Act of 1967.").

more are considering doing so.[13] In fact, just a couple years ago, then-Commissioner Carr stated, "A newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should be beyond the reach of any government official, not targeted by them."[14] We are concerned that the recent actions of the FCC have abandoned that principle.

We urge you both to follow the Constitution, immediately cease abusing the FCC's legal authority, and return to the evidence-based decision-making that has been a staple of the Commission's long and storied history.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this serious issue.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

cc.

The Honorable Geoffrey Starks
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Anna M. Gomez
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission

[12] Ryan Smith, *Disney Bows to Donald Trump,* Newsweek (Dec. 19, 2024), https://www.newsweek.com/donald-trump-abc-news-settlement-george-stephanopoulos-lawsuit-2003308.

[13] Lauren Hirsch et al, *Paramount in Settlement Talks With Trump Over '60 Minutes' Lawsuit*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 30, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/30/business/media/paramount-trump-cbs-news-settlement.html ("[M]any executives at CBS's parent company, Paramount, believe that settling the lawsuit would increase the odds that the Trump administration does not block or delay their planned multibillion-dollar merger with another company, according to several people with knowledge of the matter.").

[14] FCC Commissioner Carr Responds to Democrats' Efforts to Censor Newsrooms, Federal Communications Commission (Feb. 22, 2021), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370165A1.pdf.

45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS
WYOMING

SUITE 124
RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3424

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

February 13th, 2025

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The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Rip and Replace Funding Disbursement

Dear Chairman Carr,

I write to you on a pressing reimbursement issue that directly impacts communications carriers across Wyoming. In 2019, due to national security threats of Huawei and ZTE equipment in America's telecommunications networks, Congress passed laws[1] that prohibited companies from using such equipment and later banned the import of new equipment. To help American companies that had already invested in Huawei and ZTE equipment, Congress obligated initial funds of $1.9 billion to remove and replace the affected equipment with approved hardware.

However, the initial $1.9 billion funding fell far short of the nearly $5 billion required to legally remove and replace the affected equipment with approved hardware. Therefore, small network operators in Wyoming and throughout rural America were faced with difficult choices about the future of their services. In 2024, Congress passed legislation to fully fund this "Rip and Replace" process with an additional $3.08 billion through the Federal Communications Commission's Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program as part of the 2025 National Defense Authorization Act. Fully funding the "Rip and Replace" program ensures small wireless and broadband carriers throughout the country will not be saddled with millions of dollars in costs that could result in service blackouts and disruptions to Americans. This is especially important to states like Wyoming, where poor telecommunications connectivity continues to be one of the state's biggest challenges. With the new funding, telecommunications companies will now have the ability to not only ensure the rural areas of Wyoming have reliable access but also that our communications systems are protected from foreign adversaries.

Given the significance of the issue and its impact on carrier access in states like Wyoming, I am requesting an expedited review and disbursement of funds for this program. The swift and proper disbursement of these funds to affected operators are crucial to the economic vitality of these regions and for national economic security. The stakes are particularly high for small wireless and broadband carriers such as those in Wyoming who face substantial costs in implementing these necessary security upgrades.

[1] 47 U.S.C § 1601

CYNTHIA M. LUMMIS
WYOMING

SUITE 124
RUSSELL SENATE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-3424

United States Senate

COMMITTEES:

BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

These carriers cannot bear the financial burden of equipment replacement without causing service disruptions or possible business closures, which would severely impact local communities' access to essential communications services.

Thank you for your prompt attention to this urgent matter. Swift action on funding distributions will help protect our telecommunications infrastructure while ensuring continuous service for all Americans.

Sincerely,

Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave. NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

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United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

March 12, 2025

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VIA EMAIL

Mr. Patrick Webre
Acting Bureau Chief
Enforcement Bureau

Ms. Erin Boone
Acting Bureau Chief
Media Bureau

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Webre and Ms. Boone:

Since becoming Chair of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or the "Commission") on January 20, 2025, Brendan Carr has publicly ordered that the Media and Enforcement Bureaus reopen complaints and initiate unprecedented, intrusive investigations against media broadcasters under arbitrary and capricious pretenses — investigations that appear to exclusively target newsrooms and broadcasters that President Trump perceives as enemies. In order to understand whether the FCC is departing from longtime guidance and legal precedent to intentionally retaliate against, or otherwise chill, broadcasters that may be disfavored by the President, I write to request information and documents concerning all FCC enforcement actions, warnings, briefings, interpretive rules, cases, records, advisories, letters, and any other materials relevant to the Commission's enforcement of matters involving news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and broadcasters' public interest obligations.

The FCC's recent investigations and complaints, which threaten to put the government in the newsrooms of broadcast stations across the country, have targeted:

- **WPVI-TV (ABC),** reopening a closed complaint filed by the Center for American Rights alleging "news distortion" over an ABC moderator's factchecking of a Presidential debate.[1]

[1] *Center for American Rights Files FCC and FEC Legal Complaints Over ABC News' Debate Bias*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS (Sept. 25, 2024), https://www.americanrights.org/cases/center-for-american-rights-files-fcc-and-fec-legal-complaints-over-abc-news-debate-bias/; *News Distortion Complaint Involving WPVI*

- **WCBS-TV (CBS),** reopening a closed complaint filed by the Center for American Rights alleging "news distortion" over "Face the Nation" and "60 Minutes" interviews with former Vice President Harris.[2]

- **Paramount's proposed sale of CBS licenses to Skydance Media,** obtaining and disclosing a video and transcript of a "60 Minutes" interview that was criticized by President Trump and publicly supporting an opposition filing by the Center for American Rights.[3]

- **WNBC-TV (NBC),** reopening a closed complaint filed by the Center for American Rights alleging failure to provide equal time for an appearance by former Vice President Harris on Saturday Night Live.[4]

- **Comcast and NBCUniversal,** requesting that the Enforcement Bureau open an investigation of Comcast and NBCUniversal alleging its diversity hiring efforts violate the FCC's non-discrimination rules.[5]

- **NPR and PBS,** requesting that the Media Bureau open an investigation alleging violations of the FCC's underwriting rules for noncommercial broadcasters in a letter from Chair Carr that also weighed in on Congressional funding of both.[6] The FCC has reportedly escalated its investigation by sending more than a dozen letters of inquiry to

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Television (Philadelphia), LLC, licensee of WPVI-TV, Philadelphia, PA et al., Order (EB Jan. 22, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-84A1.pdf.

[2] *CBS Accused of News Distortion in Vice President Kamala Harris Interview — Center for American Rights Files Formal FCC Complaint*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS (Oct. 16, 2024), https://www.americanrights.org/cases/cbs-accused-of-news-distortion-in-vice-president-kamala-harris-interview-center-for-american-rights-files-formal-fcc-complaint/; *News Distortion Complaint Involving CBS Broadcasting Inc., licensee of WCBS, New York, NY*, Order (EB Jan. 22, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-85A1.pdf.

[3] *In the Matter of Skydance Media and Paramount Global*, Petition to Condition Grant by the Center for American Rights (Oct. 16, 2024), https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/121677322011/1; Ted Johnson, *Incoming FCC Chairman Brendan Carr Says '60 Minutes' Complaint "Likely To Arise" As Part Of Agency Review of Skydance-Paramount Merger*, DEADLINE (Nov. 19, 2024), https://deadline.com/2024/11/fcc-brendan-carr-60-minutes-cbs-paramount-1236181250/; Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Dec. 18, 2024, 12:43 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1869438445753618684/; *60 Minutes Publishes Transcripts, Video Requested by FCC*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 5, 2025), https://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-publishes-transcripts-video-requested-by-fcc/.

[4] *NBC Hit with FCC Complaint Over Vice President Harris' SNL Appearance*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS (Nov. 4, 2024), https://www.americanrights.org/cases/nbc-hit-with-fcc-complaint-over-vice-president-harris-snl-appearance/; *Equal Opportunities Complaint Involving NBC Telemundo License, LLC, licensee of WNBC, New York, NY*, Order (MB Jan. 22, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-83A1.pdf.

[5] Letter from Brendan Carr, Chairman, FCC, to Brian Roberts, CEO of Comcast Corporation, (Feb. 11. 2025), https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/Chairman-Carr-Letter%20to-Comcast-02112025.pdf.

[6] Benjamin Mullin & David McCabe, *F.C.C. Chair Orders Investigation into NPR and PBS Sponsorships*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 30, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/30/business/media/npr-pbs-fcc-investigation.html (quoting Letter from Brendan Carr, Chairman, FCC, to Katherine Maher, President and CEO of National Public Radio, and Paula A. Kerger, President and CEO of PBS (Jan. 29, 2025), https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/340343f285781674/6da3eb69-full.pdf).

NPR, PBS, and their affiliates.[7]

- **KCBS Radio (Audacy),** alleging that a radio news broadcast that described an immigration raid constituted a violation of the broadcaster's public interest obligations.[8]

- **Verizon,** requesting the Chairman and CEO of Verizon "reach out" to FCC staff familiar with the review of the Verizon-Frontier merger over concerns about the company's promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and past trainings.[9]

Each of these eight actions single out media broadcasters that faced the wrath of President Trump during his Presidential campaign, including actual litigation or outright threats of investigations in retaliation for perceived negative coverage.[10] This exclusive targeting to the apparent benefit of the President is further reflected in the fact that other media broadcasters, particularly allies of the President, have not faced any similar scrutiny. For example, Chair Carr did not reinstate a news distortion complaint against a Fox TV station (WTXF-TV) that was closed in January alongside the complaints against CBS, NBC, and ABC.[11] Nor has the FCC announced investigations or enforcement actions against broadcasters seen as more favorable to President Trump, even where the same or similar fact patterns exist, including against News Corp, which until recently had a longstanding diversity, equity, and inclusion program.[12]

The Commission's investigations appear predicated on dubious legal theories that deviate from the FCC's public guidance, rules, and past enforcement actions, raising the question of whether the FCC is operating under a new set of standards. By its own past admission, the FCC's authority to act on complaints alleging news distortion is "narrow" because the FCC is "prohibited

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[7] Sean Moran, *FCC's Brendan Carr Advances Investigation into NPR, PBS Running 'Prohibited' Ads*, BREITBART (Mar. 7, 2025), https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2025/03/07/fcc-advances-investigation-into-npr-pbs-running-prohibited-ads/.

[8] Brian Flood, *FCC Chair Says It's 'Really Concerning' That A Soros-Backed Radio Station Exposed Undercover ICE Agents*, NEW YORK POST (Feb. 6, 2025), https://nypost.com/2025/02/06/media/fcc-chair-concerned-that-a-soros-backed-radio-station-exposed-undercover-ice-agents/.

[9] Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Feb. 27, 2025, 3:35 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1895211283089367318/.

[10] *See, e.g.*, Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), TRUTH SOCIAL (Sept. 24, 2023, 7:53 PM), https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/111122815628828712/; Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Apr. 10, 2024, 3:48 PM), https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/112248653824267212/; Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), TRUTH SOCIAL (Sept. 14, 2024, 10:51 AM), https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/113136466410544933/; Sara Fischer, *Trump's Media Playbook*, AXIOS (Nov. 5, 2024), https://www.axios.com/2024/11/05/trump-media-playbook-regulatory-threat/.

[11] Christopher Cole, *FCC Revisits Complaints Against Major Network Broadcasters*, LAW360 (Jan. 22, 2025), https://www.law360.com/articles/2287681/fcc-revisits-complaints-against-major-network-broadcasters/; *Application of Fox Television Stations, LLC For Renewal of License of WTXF-TV, Philadelphia, PA*, Order (MB Jan.16, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-57A1.pdf.

[12] *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*, NEWS CORP, https://web.archive.org/web/20250130123209/https://newscorp.com/news-corp-diversity/ (last visited Mar. 12, 2025); *Corporate Diversity Statement*, NEWS CORP, https://newscorp.com/corporate-governance/corporate-diversity-statement/ (last visited Mar. 12, 2025); *ASX Diversity Measurable Objectives and Gender Balance*, NEWS CORP, https://newscorp.com/app/uploads/2024/10/2024-ASX-Diversity.pdf (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

by law from engaging in censorship or infringing on First Amendment rights of the press."[13] According to the FCC, "news distortion" violates FCC policy only when it involves "a significant event" and "it can be proven that [the broadcaster has] deliberately distorted a factual news report."[14] The Commission's recent actions appear to adopt ahistorical interpretations of longstanding legal standards and may be designed to intimidate newsrooms to chill future coverage potentially critical of President Trump. Furthermore, while the FCC's stated policy is that the "existence of an investigation is generally nonpublic until the Commission takes enforcement action,"[15] the Chair has engaged in repeated public grandstanding to publicize and amplify the cited investigations favorable to President Trump on Fox News, on social media, and elsewhere.[16]

Chair Carr's vexatious investigation of opponents of President Trump represents a threat to the First Amendment and inflicts upon newsrooms, affiliate groups, local media, nonprofit organizations, and religious broadcasters an ever-looming risk of retaliatory federal investigations for protected speech. In 2018, when an affiliate group was found to be forcing local news anchors to run editorial, partisan content over the objections of member stations, the FCC rejected news distortion complaints. Then-Chair Pai wrote that he could "hardly think of an action more chilling of free speech than the federal government investigating a broadcast station because of disagreement with its news coverage or promotion of that coverage."[17]

As Mr. Carr argued prior to his ascension to Chair, using FCC authorities, particularly its oversight of licenses, to retaliate over political viewpoints violates the First Amendment.[18] In Mr. Carr's own words, "[a] newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should be beyond the reach of any government official, not targeted by them."[19] Mr. Carr has even called investigations of broadcasters over their content "a chilling transgression of the free speech rights that every media outlet in this country enjoys," and accused Democrats of "sending a

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[13] *Broadcast News Distortion*, FCC, https://www.fcc.gov/broadcast-news-distortion/ (last updated July 18, 2024).

[14] *Id.*

[15] *Enforcement Primer*, FCC, https://www.fcc.gov/general/enforcement-primer (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

[16] *See, e.g.*, Brian Flood, *FCC Chair Says It's 'Really Concerning' that a Soros-Backed Radio Station Exposed Undercover ICE Agents*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 6, 2025), https://www.foxnews.com/media/fcc-chair-says-its-really-concerning-soros-backed-radio-station-exposed-undercover-ice-agents; Brian Flood, *FCC Launches Probe into NBC News Parent Comcast 'to Root Out Invidious Forms of DEI Discrimination'*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 12, 2025), https://www.foxnews.com/media/fcc-launches-probe-nbc-news-parent-comcast-to-root-out-invidious-forms-dei-discrimination; Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Feb. 12, 2025, 2:02 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1889752017150812321/; Carr, *supra* note 9.

[17] Letters from Ajit V. Pai, Chairman, FCC, to Senators Bernard Sanders, Maria Cantwell, Richard Blumenthal, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Jeff Merkley, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Udall, Tammy Baldwin, Cory Booker, & Edward Markey (Apr. 12, 2018), https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2018/db0423/DOC-350372A1.pdf.

[18] *See, e.g.*, Press Release, Off. Comm'r Brendan Carr, Democrats Pressure FCC To Deny Sale Of Spanish-Language Radio Station In Florida Based On Political Viewpoints (Apr. 19, 2021), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371715A1.pdf; Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Apr. 19, 2021, 3:45 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1384231810167578625/; *In the Matter of Sinclair Broadcast Group*, Statement of Commissioner Brendan Carr (May 22, 2020), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-59A3.pdf.

[19] Press Release, Off. Comm'r Brendan Carr, FCC Commissioner Carr Responds to Democrats' Efforts to Censor Newsrooms (Feb. 22, 2021), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370165A1.pdf.

message that is as clear as it is troubling—these regulated entities will pay a price if the targeted newsrooms do not conform to Democrats' preferred political narratives."[20]

Under the new standard that appears to have been set by Chair Carr, however, every newsroom, affiliate group, and broadcaster across the country faces the possibility of burdensome investigations, fines, and even the revocation of licenses for disfavored speech or a change in political winds — they will pay a price if the targeted newsrooms do not conform to President Trump's preferred political narratives.

For these reasons, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations ("PSI" or "the Subcommittee") has opened a preliminary inquiry into the FCC's recent handling of complaints and investigations. Pursuant to Senate Resolution 59 (118th Cong.) and PSI Rule 1, please provide information and records responsive to the following requests by March 26, 2025.

1. Describe the FCC's investigatory process for complaints involving broadcast news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations, including, but not limited to:
    a. Procedures and protocols for:
        i. receiving and evaluating complaints;
        ii. gathering additional information;
        iii. docketing complaints;
        iv. making and issuing determinations; and
        v. seeking enforcement, when applicable.
    b. The parties responsible for administering, reviewing, and approving each step of the FCC's investigatory process.

2. Identify all authorities, including but not limited to statutes, regulations, legal precedents, guidance, and Commission reports and memoranda related to news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations, relied on by the FCC to:
    a. initiate an investigation into allegations;
    b. determine the sufficiency of an investigation into and evidence probative of allegations;
    c. set aside a prior order;
    d. seek public comments on an investigation, including evidence; and
    e. seek enforcement against a broadcaster.

3. Identify all enforcement actions, warnings, briefings, interpretive rules, cases, records, advisories, letters, and any other documents from the Commission related to news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations since January 1, 2005, including the outcome of such actions.

4. Identify all statutes, rules, or guidance related to the public disclosure and handling of complaints, referrals, or investigations by the Commission, including rules and standards

[20] *Id.*

related to the disclosure of investigations or enforcement matters and disclosure of evidence obtained in enforcement actions.

5. Produce copies of all precedents, guidance, memoranda, or other documents referenced in response to requests 1-4, unless readily available to the public.

6. Produce all communications regarding the reopening of the WTXF-TV complaint closed on January 16, 2025, to include any deliberations or decisions that took place regarding its possible reopening.

7. Produce all complaints or investigations referred to, or opened by, the Media and Enforcement Bureaus into news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations since January 20, 2025.

Please contact Subcommittee staff should you have any questions about responding to these requests. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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April 2, 2025

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, N.E.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr:

We are writing concerning the Commission's most recent order in the Incarcerated People's Communications Services ("IPCS") proceeding[1] issued under the Biden-Rosenworcel leadership. We are concerned that the Commission's 2024 IPCS Order adversely impacts law enforcement, particularly the nation's jails, and ask that you give this issue immediate attention to ensure law enforcement has access to the tools they need to maintain public safety.

The 2024 IPCS Order intrudes upon law enforcement's most basic obligation to ensure public safety by second guessing decisions on what is needed to ensure the public is not harmed by inmates using IPCS. These new rules are especially harmful for our nation's jails which typically have fewer resources with which to operate than larger regional and state facilities. Even though the new rules have not yet been fully implemented, some jails have no choice but to cease IPCS service so as not to compromise public safety.[2] As implementation unfolds, this problem will get worse as the Commission's own data show that service in up to 31% of all facilities, and potentially 50% of jails, is at risk under the new rules.

This is an untenable position, and it contradicts Congressional intent in the Martha Wright-Reed Act (P.L. 117-338) which mandates consideration of safety and security costs and prohibits regulations preventing the implementation of safety and security measures.

By disregarding the vast majority of IPCS safety and security costs, the order contradicts the intent of Congress in the Martha Wright-Reed Act and it makes correctional facilities less safe—exposing the public to threats, abuse, and criminal and other illicit activity using inmate calling systems. We are aware of recent examples in our state of North Carolina where the safety and security technology the 2024 IPCS Order finds not to be "used and useful" has saved lives, including preventing an inmate from orchestrating the murder of two innocent members of the

[1] *See Incarcerated People's Communications Services; Implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Act and Rates for Interstate Inmate Calling Services*, Report and Order, Order on Reconsideration, Clarification and Waiver, and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. FCC 24-75, WC Docket Nos. 23-62, 12-375 (rel. Jul. 22, 2024) (the "2024 IPCS Order").

[2] *See FCC Regs to End Inmate Phone System,* Ozark Radio News, Feb. 25, 2025.

public and revealing that an inmate had managed to smuggle 29 grams of illegal fentanyl into the jail—a sufficient quantity to endanger all lives in the facility.[3]

These examples illustrate the urgency of the situation. We request you consider providing interim relief for IPCS vendors by restoring their ability to provide critical monitoring and recording functions to our nation's jails. We appreciate your consideration of our request and look forward to working together to improve the safety and security of our jails and prisons.

Sincerely,



Richard Hudson
Member of Congress



Ted Budd
U.S. Senator

cc: Commissioner Nathan Simington
Commissioner Geoffrey Starks
Commissioner Anna M. Gomez

[3] *See, e.g.*, Pay Tel Communications, Inc. Notice of Ex Parte Meeting, WC Docket Nos. 23-62 and 12-375 (March 7, 2025).

TED CRUZ, TEXAS, CHAIRMAN

JOHN THUNE, SOUTH DAKOTA
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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6125
WEBSITE: https://commerce.senate.gov

March 31, 2025

Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr,

Through a series of misguided executive orders ("EO"), directives, and guidance memoranda, the Trump Administration is taking a sledgehammer, rather than a scalpel, to our Federal agencies. The effect appears to be the dismantling of long-standing programs that have benefitted the American people, and the demoralization and destabilization of the Federal workforce that is needed to implement and manage these programs in support of our democracy.

One EO called for the termination of all diversity, equity, and inclusion and environmental justice programs[1], with complete disregard for the purpose or success of those programs—and their constitutional underpinnings. In your first day in office, you disbanded long-serving advisory committees focused on ensuring communications is available to all Americans and proceeded to place employees on administrative leave for their prior role to advance the FCC's mission against digital discrimination.[2] Then you launched an inappropriate investigation into Comcast-NBCUniversal's and Verizon's DEI policies as part of a broader agency-wide effort to "root out DEI discrimination" from FCC regulated entities. Reports indicate that these government-wide terminations are so indiscriminate that they cut programs or research projects merely because a woman led them or because they required outreach to impacted communities who happen to be minorities, even if the project was awarded in a full, open, and fair competition.[3] This disrespect and indignity flies in the face of those bipartisan members of Congress who created these programs and support these projects.

Multiple EOs, followed by an Office of Management and Budget memo[4], called for a freeze of all Federal grant and loan funding, including the disbursement of already obligated funds, leading to the temporary halting of funding by directorates within your agency. Thankfully, Federal courts intervened to stop this wasteful and potentially illegal effort to delay lawful

[1] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferencing/
[2] FCC, "Chairman Carr Ends FCC's Promotion of DEI," (Jan. 21, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-409054A1.pdf.
[3] https://apnews.com/article/trump-academic-research-funding-dei-5c8f89118da6c9604329120a576ba183; https://www.rdworldonline.com/nsf-layoffs-in-2025-deep-budget-cuts-headed-for-u-s-research-sector/.
[4] https://www.documentcloud.org/documents/25506191-omb-memo-1-27/

Federal funding to build infrastructure, engage in workforce development, and support our economy.

Then, in the wake of an EO to freeze all Federal hiring[5], the Office of Personnel Management, possibly from a private server installed by Elon Musk, sent a highly-questionable "Fork in the Road" offer[6] to all Federal employees requesting their resignation, followed by insulting guidance calling Federal jobs "lower productivity"[7] and revoking the offer for some employees. This created needless confusion and fear across the Federal workforce. This offer, and the ensuing chaos it created, has led to poor morale and halted workflows as FCC employees try to navigate its legality and legitimacy.

Now, the President has directed Elon Musk, and the newly created, so-called Department of Government Efficiency[8] ("DOGE"), through an initiative not sanctioned by Congress, to reach all corners of the Federal government to seek additional funding cuts and indiscriminate reductions in force ("RIF") under the guise of saving taxpayer funding. Indeed, with Federal employees' compensation amounting to approximately 3 percent of the Federal budget in fiscal year 2024,[9] DOGE could terminate the entire Federal civilian workforce and the fiscal impact would be relatively insignificant—especially when the Trump Administration is preparing to blow a hole in the deficit by cutting trillions in taxes for corporations and billionaires.[10] Unfortunately, it appears recent terminations of probationary employees—regardless of skill set, job performance, or the function they fill—are just the beginning of this short-sighted effort, which will certainly have a long-term detrimental effect on the ability of the Federal government to provide the public the services Congress has promised.

As Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation with oversight of your agency, I write to you today with serious questions about the impacts these EOs, directives, guidance, and DOGE efforts have had on your agency thus far. Given the lack of publicly available information regarding the governance, oversight, or operational structure of the DOGE, I am compelled to conduct rigorous oversight to determine the extent to which Federal agencies may be engaging with this entity, what conflicts of interest may exist for the employees and volunteers running the DOGE, and what risks such interactions may pose to national security, public safety, government integrity, taxpayer privacy, and public accountability.

Accordingly, I request that you provide a comprehensive response to the following questions no later than April 11, 2025:

Termination of Programs and Employees

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[5] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/hiring-freeze/
[6] https://www.opm.gov/fork/original-email-to-employees/
[7] https://www.opm.gov/fork/faq/
[8] https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/establishing-and-implementing-the-presidents-department-of-government-efficiency/
[9] https://www.npr.org/2025/02/13/nx-s1-5296928/layoffs-trump-doge-education-energy
[10] https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2025/02/14/trump-firing-probation-workforce-buyouts-layoffs-doge/f816fbea-eb23-11ef-969b-cfbefacb1eb3_story.html; https://www.nbcnews.com/politics/congress/house-gop-panel-approves-budget-blueprint-steep-tax-spending-cuts-rcna192002.

1. Please provide all actions your agency took to comply with the EO titled "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs And Preferencing", including:
    - The methodology for determining any program, project, grant, or employee terminations,
    - The Federal funding associated with the terminations and any non-Federal match,
    - Whether these terminations are in compliance with Federal laws and directives from Congress.
2. Please provide an accounting of the number of employees at your agency that accepted the deferred resignation offer in the "Fork in the Road" email, including:
    - Their position and civil service pay scale,
    - Duty station,
    - Eligibility for Voluntary Early Retirement Authority (VERA) or standard retirement,
    - Whether they were probationary employees.
3. Please provide an accounting of all employees at your agency that were terminated, or will be terminated under any RIF, including:
    - Their position and civil service pay scale,
    - Duty station,
    - Eligibility for VERA or standard retirement,
    - Whether they were or are probationary employees.
4. Please provide information on any direct service contractors on staff that were or will be terminated under any subsequent RIF, including:
    - Their contracted employer, and
    - Duty station.

Oversight of DOGE Actions

1. Agency Engagement and Authority
    - Has your agency or any of its employees, contractors, or affiliates engaged with the DOGE in any capacity? If so, please provide details regarding the nature, scope, and frequency of such engagements.
    - Under what authority, if any, has your agency authorized interaction with the DOGE?
    - Has your agency issued any internal guidance, including informal guidance, regarding the DOGE? If so, please provide copies of all such guidance, including any related directives, policies, or communications.
2. Personnel and Security
    - Does your agency have any information regarding the vetting processes, security clearances, or background checks applied to the DOGE representatives seeking to access agency information? If so, please provide a complete description of this information.
    - Has your agency identified any current or former Federal employees, consultants, or contractors who have worked with, for, or in coordination with the DOGE? If so, please provide a complete list of all such individuals.

3. Information Access and Decision-Making
    - Has the DOGE or any of its representatives requested, received, or otherwise accessed any of your agency's information, sensitive or otherwise? If so, please provide a complete description of the nature of the information accessed and the circumstances under which it was shared. If not, please explain whether you expect the DOGE or any of its representatives to seek access to your agency's information in the future and the nature of the information expected to be sought.
    - Has your agency been asked to disclose any internal processes, decision-making frameworks, or other government functions to the DOGE or any affiliated entities? If so, please provide a complete description of any such request and your agency's response to each.
    - Has the DOGE requested names of agency employees or other personally identifiable information (PII) related to your workforce? If so, please specify the categories of PII sought.
    - Has the DOGE been involved in, consulted on, or influenced any policy-making, advisory roles, or government decision-making processes? Has your legal and ethics counsel completed an ethics review for any conflicts of interest for all DOGE representatives prior to their involvement, consultation, or influence on policy-making, advisory work or decision-making?
    - Have DOGE representatives assumed responsibilities or advised any human resources or personnel-focused employees about RIFs, terminations, or other personnel actions? If so, please provide a complete description of these efforts.
4. Ethics and Communication
    - Has your legal and ethics counsel completed an ethics review for any conflicts of interest for all DOGE representatives prior to providing any access to DOGE representatives to agency records, databases, systems, or information? If so, please identify whether any conflicts of interest were identified and what steps, if any, were taken to remediate them.
    - Has anyone affiliated with the DOGE attempted to contact any agency employees regarding official Federal business from a private messaging platform, such as Signal? If so, please identify all such attempts and produce copies of any such communications.

The Commerce Committee is also committed to ensuring the programs it has authorized are implemented as intended. It is imperative that Congress be fully informed on actions taken in response to the EOs, directives, guidance, and the DOGE so the Committee can ensure: the integrity of government agencies and information systems free from outside influence; the preservation of national security by denying access to classified information by those without proper clearances; and, most importantly, the protection of public safety by eliminating outside conflicts of interest in policy- and decision-making.

Our oversight responsibility requires your full cooperation in this matter. Additionally, I request that appropriate officials be made available for a briefing to discuss these concerns in greater detail. Please contact Commerce Committee Democratic staff by April 11, 2025, to schedule this briefing.

Sincerely,



Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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May 6, 2025

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr:

We urge you to modernize the FCC's broadcast ownership rules to enable local broadcasters to compete with today's media giants.

The fast-evolving media marketplace has made broadcast ownership regulations in urgent need of modernization. Such regulations originated in the 1940s, and while the FCC has made modest adjustments since then, broadcast ownership rules today remain nearly the same as they were in the 1990s. Despite modest tweaks, these rules fail to account for the rise of digital platforms, streaming services, smartphones, and social media. Local broadcasters now vie for audience, content, and advertising not just with each other, but with the world's largest tech companies. The regulations, designed for a bygone era, no longer reflect this reality.

Technology firms have reshaped how Americans access news, entertainment, and vital information, dominating the media marketplace in ways that threaten the survival of local broadcasters. Yet broadcasters remain unmatched in delivering trusted, accurate reporting—a role more critical than ever as newspapers vanish nationwide. Surveys consistently show Americans trust local news above all other sources. From holding governments accountable to boosting civic engagement and providing lifesaving updates during crises—whether public safety threats or severe weather—broadcasters are first to respond and last to leave. They do so, however, under a regulatory burden that ties one hand behind their back.

Now is the time for swift FCC action to level the playing field for local broadcasters by modernizing the broadcast ownership rules. As newspapers continue to shutter across our country, local broadcasting remains the last bastion of trusted news for local communities. But creating news requires substantial resources: without the opportunity to combine or expand operations, broadcasters struggle to invest in journalism, retain sufficient newsroom staff, and strain to compete against their unregulated global Big Tech competitors. By modernizing broadcast ownership restrictions, the FCC can empower broadcasters to fulfill their essential role in American democracy, foster local journalism, and benefit local communities and the public interest.

We encourage you to act swiftly. Updating these rules will strengthen local journalism, enhance public interest, and ensure broadcasters can compete in a digital age, not just survive it.

Sincerely,

Jerry Moran
United States Senator

Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senator

Todd Young
United States Senator

Kevin Cramer
United States Senator

Ted Budd
United States Senator

John R. Curtis
United States Senator

James Lankford
United States Senator

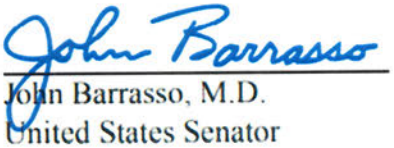
Marsha Blackburn
United States Senator

Cynthia M. Lummis
United States Senator

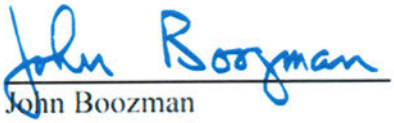
Tommy Tuberville
United States Senator

Tim Sheehy
United States Senator

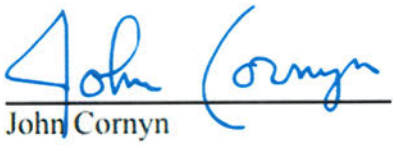
Dan Sullivan
United States Senator



John Barrasso, M.D.
United States Senator



John Boozman
United States Senator



John Cornyn
United States Senator



Susan M. Collins
United States Senator



Charles E. Grassley
United States Senator



Joni K. Ernst
United States Senator



Steve Daines
United States Senator



John Hoeven
United States Senator



Pete Ricketts
United States Senator



Tim Scott
United States Senator

United States Senate

May 13, 2025

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The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr,

With the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) currently reviewing the proposed merger between Paramount Global and Skydance Media, we urge you to approve the transaction only with an affirmative vote by the full Commission. Although the Commission has delegated authority for its Media Bureau to decide certain matters without a full Commission vote,[1] this transaction is unique from other mergers that have come before the Commission. In particular, Paramount is reportedly considering settling a frivolous, unrelated lawsuit filed by President Donald Trump against CBS, a Paramount subsidiary. Given the high profile of this deal and, at the very least, the appearance of impropriety, we strongly urge you to approve the merger only with a vote by the full Commission.

The unique position of this case stems from President Trump's ongoing, frivolous litigation against CBS. In late October, then-candidate Trump sued CBS for $10 billion — later raising this outrageous amount to $20 billion — for supposedly deceptively editing an interview of then-Vice President Kamala Harris on its programs *60 Minutes* and *Face the Nation*.[2] As the transcript of the interview showed, the excerpts that CBS aired were a quintessential example of editorial decision-making.[3] Trump's claim that such conduct constituted "voter interference" and violated Texas's consumer protection law is both false and a clear attempt to intimidate the news media. CBS has rightfully moved to dismiss the case.[4]

Despite the obviously frivolous nature of the lawsuit, Paramount is reportedly considering settling the case to "increase the odds that the Trump administration does not block

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[1] 47 CFR § 0.283.

[2] *See, e.g.*, *Trump sues CBS over Kamala Harris '60 Minutes' interview*, Reuters (Oct. 31, 2024), https://www.reuters.com/legal/trump-sues-cbs-over-kamala-harris-interview-2024-10-31.

[3] *See, e.g.,* Joe Lancaster, *Transcript Proves the 60 Minutes Scandal Was Always Fake*, Reason Magazine (Feb. 6, 2025), https://reason.com/2025/02/06/transcript-proves-the-60-minutes-scandal-was-always-fake/; Brian Stelter, *The FCC just published CBS' raw Kamala Harris '60 Minutes' interview*, CNN (Feb. 5, 2025), https://www.cnn.com/2025/02/05/media/cbs-kamala-harris-60-minutes-interview/index.html.

[4] *See, e.g.,* Sara Fischer, *CBS moves to dismiss $20 billion Trump lawsuit*, Axios (March 6, 2025), https://www.axios.com/2025/03/06/cbs-files-to-dismiss-trump-lawsuit.

or delay" its merger with Skydance.[5] In fact, Paramount executives and directors are reportedly concerned that such a settlement could open them up to accusations of bribery.[6] Paramount would not be the first to settle a lawsuit brought by the President in the past few months. In the weeks following the inauguration, ABC ($16 million),[7] Meta ($25 million),[8] and X ($10 million)[9] all settled cases brought by Trump. With Paramount on the hook to pay Skydance a $400 million breakup fee if the FCC blocks the deal, the company has strong financial incentives to facilitate FCC approval of the merger.[10]

For those reasons, this transaction has signs of a deal between a company eager for approval of a multi-billion dollar merger and a President willing to exploit his position to intimidate the media and secure a multi-million dollar payout. The unique position of this merger necessitates the utmost transparency at the FCC. A matter of this significance deserves the scrutiny of the entire Commission. We urge you to only approve this merger through a full Commission vote.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

[5] *See* Lauren Hirsch et al., *Paramount in Settlement Talks With Trump Over '60 Minutes' Lawsuit*, N.Y. Times (Jan. 30, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/30/business/media/paramount-trump-cbs-news-settlement.html.

[6] Jessica Toonkel, *Paramount Executives Ask: Could They Be Sued for Settling Trump's $20 Billion CBS Lawsuit?*, Wall St. J. (Feb. 14, 2025), https://www.wsj.com/business/media/paramount-executives-ask-could-they-be-sued-for-settling-trumps-20-billion-cbs-lawsuit-228604a2.

[7] *See, e.g.,* Michael R. Sisak, *ABC agrees to give $15 million to Donald Trump's presidential library to settle defamation lawsuit*, Associated Press (Dec. 14, 2024), https://apnews.com/article/abc-trump-lawsuit-defamation-stephanopoulos-04aea8663310af39ae2a85f4c1a56d68.

[8] *See, e.g.,* Annie Linskey & Rebecca Ballhaus, *Meta to Pay $25 Million to Settle 2021 Trump Lawsuit*, Wall St. J. (Jan. 29, 2025), https://www.wsj.com/us-news/law/trump-signs-agreement-calling-for-meta-to-pay-25-million-to-settle-suit-6f734c8c.

[9] *See, e.g.,* Annie Linskey & Rebecca Ballhaus, *Musk's X Agrees to Pay About $10 Million to Settle Trump Lawsuit*, Wall St. J. (Feb. 12, 2025), https://www.wsj.com/tech/musks-x-agrees-to-pay-about-10-million-to-settle-trump-lawsuit-a38348f8.

[10] *See, e.g.,* Lucas Manfredi, *Paramount-Skydance Merger Deadline Extended 90 Days as FCC Approval Remains in Limbo*, The Wrap (Apr. 7, 2025), https://www.thewrap.com/paramount-skydance-merger-closing-deadline-extended.

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 10, 2025

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Chairman Brendan Carr
Federal Communications Commission
45 L St NE
Washington, DC

Chairman Carr;

We are reaching out on behalf of the Beresford City Council and Beresford Cable TV, a municipally owned service provider, regarding the designation of the Sioux City Designated Market Area (DMA) for residents of northern Union County, South Dakota—specifically in ZIP codes 57001, 57004, and 57034.

According to local officials and constituents, this assignment has led to a misalignment between the mandated DMA and the actual geographic, cultural and economic ties of the community, which are much stronger with the Sioux Falls media market. This creates a service disparity for Beresford residents—especially older and fixed-income individuals—who are unable to access Sioux Falls local news, emergency alerts and weather updates through streaming or satellite services due to outdated DMA restrictions.

In light of these concerns, we respectfully request the following:

1. Clarification on FCC's rationale for assigning the Sioux City DMA to northern Union County, despite its proximity and stronger alignment with Sioux Falls.
2. Whether a community-wide waiver or exception to the DMA rules can be granted for Beresford and surrounding ZIP codes, allowing residents to choose Sioux Falls local channels through streaming and satellite platforms.
3. An outline of the process by which a local government entity—such as Beresford Cable—may petition the FCC for such a change or participate in any pilot initiative that allows limited market flexibility.
4. Identification of any existing mechanisms within FCC rulemaking or adjudication that would allow for consumer DMA choice or reassignment based on community needs in rural or mixed-county towns.

We would appreciate a written response and, if possible, a briefing with relevant staff from the FCC to discuss potential solutions that would allow these communities better access to regionally appropriate content.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. We look forward to working with you to support the information access needs of South Dakota's rural seniors and families.

Sincerely,

M. Michael Rounds
United States Senator

Dusty Johnson
Member of Congress

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510-0908

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June 18, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Carr:

We write to request that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) provide a briefing to members and staff of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging on the national security risks posed by foreign adversary-manufactured modular transmitters embedded within health wearable devices marketed and sold in the United States. As the Chinese Communist Party (CCP) intensifies its campaign to steal and exploit private consumer data, we have a solemn obligation to ensure that the health devices our nation's seniors depend on daily do not expose them to unacceptable security risks.

The FCC's Second Report and Order of October 28, 2025, confirmed that People's Republic of China (PRC)-origin modular transmitters embedded within consumer devices, including health wearables, merit scrutiny even when the finished goods manufacturer isn't based in an adversarial nation (i.e. Communist China). Every smartwatch, fitness band, remote patient monitor, and personal emergency response device that transmits data wirelessly likely does so through a modular transmitter subject to the Commission's equipment authorization rules under 47 CFR § 15.212(a).[1]

One of China's dominant cellular Internet of Things (IoT) manufacturers, Quectel, was recently added to the Section 1260H list of Chinese Military Companies maintained by the Department of Defense.[2] While consumers, including seniors, believe that their health wearables may be completely secure, the unfortunate reality indicates that in all likelihood, the most intimate details of their health may be accessible by a foreign adversarial government. In fact, only three of the top 10 IoT global module manufacturers are insulated from the Chinese Communist Party, and one of those three exited the IoT module market last year.[3] In the PRC's case, their domestic cybersecurity law compels companies to provide access to their data and technology to the central government upon demand[4], which means that every device sold by a PRC-based wearable manufacturer, and any

[1] 54B9433A-2DB2-4567-92C2-6B236364A9EF (Letter to Chairman Carr from Senator Rick Scott and Congressman Andy Ogles, 17 DEC 2025).
[2] https://media.defense.gov/2025/Jan/07/2003625471/-1/-1/1/ENTITIES-IDENTIFIED-AS-CHINESE-MILITARY-COMPANIES-OPERATING-IN-THE-UNITED-STATES.PDF
[3] https://libertybellproject.us/reports/spies-saboteurs-and-access-to-u-s-connected-devices/
[4] https://www.dhs.gov/sites/default/files/publications/20_1222_data-security-business-advisory.pdf

sensitive personally identifiable information (PII) is potentially accessible to Beijing, with or without the user's knowledge or consent.

Incidentally, the global market for consumer health wearables themselves is also dominated, in terms of unit volume and price point, by manufacturers based in the PRC. Modern connected health wearables continuously monitor several critical health indicators, including heart rate, blood pressure, blood oxygen saturation, electrocardiographic activity, sleep, body temperature, and blood glucose levels.[5] These biometric parameters are directly relevant to intelligence about an individual's physical vulnerabilities, and, in aggregate, provides population level health profiles that could be used to train artificial intelligence (AI) models for non-civilian applications.

By 2027, worldwide wearable shipments, which includes smartwatches, fitness trackers, and connected health monitors, are projected to grow to 625.4 million units[6], a figure boosted in part by low-cost Chinese-manufactured devices.[7] While many Chinese health wearable devices are not yet widely available in the United States, many Chinese companies are expected to submit competitive bidding applications to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, risking a flood of U.S.-bound products in the coming years. Some Chinese health wearables manufacturers already continue to distribute their products throughout the U.S. consumer market, including Xiaomi (especially through its affiliate, Zepp Health) and even select products of Covered List-sanctioned Huawei.[8] These two companies were found in a June 2025 peer reviewed study published in *npj Digital Medicine* to have the highest cumulative privacy risk scores of any wearable manufacturer in a 17-company, 24-criteria analysis.[9] Of all companies assessed in this study, Xiaomi achieved the highest risk score of 60 out of a possible 72, with 16 out of 24 criteria rated as "High Risk." Huawei received 14 High Risk ratings.

While the threat of Chinese health wearable data exfiltration affects all Americans, we are especially concerned about the risk to senior citizens who increasingly rely on specific categories of connected health monitoring devices primarily designed and marketed for their use. These products, enumerated below, can collect highly sensitive, medically actionable information that goes far beyond what a typical consumer fitness tracker captures. They are, in many cases, the very devices that determine whether a senior receives emergency medical care, whether their medication is working, and whether they are safe to remain in their own home.

In anticipation of a briefing to the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, we respectfully request that the Commission review the following categories of connected

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[5] https://www.nature.com/articles/s44325-025-00082-6
[6] https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20230920033505/en/Wearables-Bounce-Back-with-8.5-Growth-in-Q2-2023-and-a-Positive-Forecast-According-to-IDC
[7] Ibid
[8] Amazon - Huawei Watch
[9] https://www.nature.com/articles/s41746-025-01757-1

health products, as well as any foreign adversary-manufactured modular transmitters used in these products, for data security and privacy risks. We further request an assessment of whether these risks may warrant inclusion of such products and transmitters on the Covered List on a going-forward basis.

1. Personal Emergency Response Systems (PERS) and Fall Detection Wearables

Personal emergency response systems, including those worn on the wrist or as a pendant, are critical for senior independent living. They collect GPS location data, fall detection data, and critical physiological data. An unknown but significant share of the cellular modules within PERS devices – even those sold under American brand names – may originate from industry scale PRC-based suppliers, including Quectel and Fibocom.[10][11] Any PERS device whose modular transmitter or embedded processor originates from a PRC-based company not yet on the Covered List may still represent a direct pathway for data exfiltration or remote disruption.

2. Smartwatches and Fitness Trackers

Health wearables sold by PRC-based companies warrant serious scrutiny over how they handle user data. Amazfit, which markets smartwatches and fitness trackers in the United States through its parent company Zepp Health, has clear historical and organizational ties to Xiaomi[12], one of China's largest and most politically connected technology firms.[13] In 2020, researchers reportedly found that Xiaomi was monitoring the phone activity of millions of people, raising considerable consumer data privacy concerns.[14]

3. Remote Blood Pressure and Cardiac Monitors

Andon Health, a PRC-based company[15] operating in the United States under its subsidiary iHealth Inc.[16], manufactures FDA-approved[17] blood pressure monitors and digital thermometers. Because these devices capture sensitive cardiovascular and metabolic data and transmit it to cloud platforms, they present exactly the kind of risk members of Congress have previously[18] identified with respect to genetic sequencing devices connecting to research networks and cloud services.

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[10] ibid
[11] https://judiciary.house.gov/committee-activity/hearings/ip-and-strategic-competition-china-part-iv-patents-standards-and-0
[12] https://www.firstpost.com/tech/news-analysis/xiaomi-unveils-amazfit-smartwatch-3687679.html
[13] Amazfit Smart Watch (Amazon.com)
[14] https://www.forbes.com/sites/thomasbrewster/2020/04/30/exclusive-warning-over-chinese-mobile-giant-xiaomi-recording-millions-of-peoples-private-web-and-phone-use/#7f4c67bf1b2a
[15] https://www.jiuan.com/EN/aboutUs.html?index=
[16] https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/ihealth-raises-25-million-to-fuel-growth-and-global-market-share-275809751.html
[17] iHealth Labs: FDA Approval of Wireless Blood Pressure Monitors
[18] See footnote 1

4. Continuous Glucose Monitors and Metabolic Wearables

Continuous glucose monitors, which transmit real-time blood sugar data to smartphones and cloud platforms, are life critical devices for millions of seniors living with Type 2 diabetes. For seniors living with this chronic disease, that data stream constitutes the disclosure of medication adherence, dietary behavior, metabolic stress, and the timing of acute health incidents. While several American companies have taken important measures to protect PII – and should be praised for doing so – it is nevertheless relevant for Congress to learn if any domestically sold CGMs and related health wearables contain embedded modular transmitters from Communist China, and what the implications may be for data privacy and national security.

5. Smart Hearing Aids and Auditory Health Devices

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging further encourages the Commission to consider any risks to data privacy to our nation's seniors concurrent with the use of smart hearing aids. One in three people sixty years of age and above have hearing loss; that figure increases to between 40 and 50 percent for adults between the ages of 65-75, and 50% for seniors older than 85 years old.[19] Critically, the Food and Drug Administration's approval in October 2022 of a regulatory category for over the counter hearing aids has dramatically accelerated access, to the point that PRC-based manufacturers have become significant producers of OTC hearing aids exported to the United States. Communist Chinese companies (including Huizhou Jinghao Medical Technology) manufacture Bluetooth enabled hearing aids sold under retail and white label brands in U.S. market and online channels, with little disclosure to end consumers of their origin or data governance practices. These particular products pose a clear need for increased scrutiny: former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper required a security waiver specifically because of the surveillance risk posed by his wireless enabled hearing aid.[20]

6. Home-Based Remote Patient Monitoring (RPM) Devices

Several RPM device manufacturers, while operating in the U.S., rely on infrastructure or cloud services hosted in China, meaning that personal health data including glucose levels may be transmitted overseas, sometimes without the knowledge of patients or providers.[21] Perhaps the most consequential example to date involves the Contec CMS8000, a patient monitor manufactured by Contec Medical Systems[22], headquartered in Qinhuangdao, China. In January 2025, CISA released a fact sheet detailing that analysts discovered an embedded backdoor function with a hard-coded IP address and functionality

[19] https://www.audiology.org/consumers-and-patients/seniors-hearing-loss/
[20] https://www.cnn.com/2016/05/18/politics/hearing-aids-clapper-security-waiver
[21] https://www.businesswire.com/news/home/20250529680608/en/Smart-Meter-Highlights-Security-Risks-of-Remote-Patient-Monitoring-Devices-Sending-Patient-Data-to-China
[22] Cybersecurity Vulnerabilities with Certain Patient Monitors from Contec and Epsimed: FDA Safety Communication | FDA

that enables patient data spillage exists in all firmware versions analyzed.[23] The U.S. government warned that Chinese-made patient monitors in America were sending sensitive data back to internet locations in China, and the devices contained embedded backdoors that could allow alteration of patient data.[24]

Health wearables are extraordinarily helpful and necessary tools in improving the quality of life for America's seniors. As a result, these life-saving products must be secured from the malign influences of foreign adversaries – our seniors deserve to know that the products they depend on are not undermining their privacy concerns. We look forward to working with the Commission on fulfilling our request for a briefing and respectfully request a response by **COB July 15, 2026.**

Sincerely,

Rick Scott
United States Senator

David McCormick
United States Senator

cc: The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services
The Honorable Mehmet Oz, Administrator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services

[23] https://www.cisa.gov/news-events/alerts/2025/01/30/cisa-releases-fact-sheet-detailing-embedded-backdoor-function-contec-cms8000-firmware
[24] https://www.fdd.org/analysis/2026/04/06/new-standards-aim-to-protect-medical-patients-from-the-internet-of-things/

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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6125
WEBSITE: https://commerce.senate.gov

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June 15, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC, 20544

Dear Chairman Carr:

I write to raise serious concerns with the proposed transfer of 800 MHz spectrum licenses from T-Mobile to Grain Management[1] and to urge the Federal Communications Commission to take all necessary steps, and impose all necessary requirements, to ensure that this critical spectrum is put into operational use without further delay.

Spectrum is a scarce and foundational resource of the modern economy and one of the most valuable assets managed by the federal government. Sound spectrum policy—centered on market-driven, competitive auctions[2]—is essential to ensuring that spectrum is put to its highest and best use. That is why I championed the passage of the largest spectrum pipeline in American history as part of the Working Families Tax Cut Act.[3] But making spectrum available is just the first step; the public benefits materialize only when it is put into operational use. I appreciate that, under your leadership, the Commission has prioritized policies that require timely deployment to serve consumers.[4]

The 800 MHz spectrum at issue in this transaction is poised for immediate, large-scale deployment. It provides exclusive access to highly valuable low-band spectrum with excellent propagation characteristics, including superior building penetration and wide-area coverage. It is also supported by a mature device ecosystem, with hundreds of millions of compatible devices already available.[5] Recognizing the strategic value of this spectrum, the Commission required its

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[1] *Wireless Telecommunications Bureau Accepts for Filing T-Mobile USA, Inc.'s and Grain Management, LLC's Assignment Applications and Seeks Comment on Waiver Requests*, Public Notice, 40 FCC Rcd 3194 (2025).
[2] R.H. Coase, *The Federal Communications Commission*, 2 J.L. & Econ. 1 (1959).
[3] Pub. L. No. 119-21, § 40002, 139 Stat. 72, 128-30 (2025).
[4] *See, e.g.*, *Applications of Spectrum Business Trust 2025-1, Space Exploration Technologies Corp., and EchoStar Corporation for Consent to Assign Spectrum and Earth Station Licenses*, Memorandum Opinion and Order, GN Docket No. 25-302, DA 26-471 (rel. May 12, 2026).
[5] *See, e.g.*, *5G and LTE. Find the iPhone That's Right for Your Country or Region*, APPLE, https://www.apple.com/iphone/cellular/ (last visited June 15, 2026); *Pixel Phone Hardware Tech Specs*, GOOGLE, https://support.google.com/pixelphone/answer/7158570 (last visited June 15, 2026).

divestiture as a condition of the Sprint-T-Mobile merger,[6] part of a broader set of regulatory concessions intended to establish a new nationwide wireless competitor, DISH Mobile. Unfortunately, that effort failed. As a result, this spectrum has remained largely dormant for much of the last decade, even as demand has continued to grow across a wide range of wireless services and, more recently, among satellite operators seeking to deploy direct-to-device capabilities.

Last year, T-Mobile entered into a cash-and-spectrum swap agreement with Grain Management,[7] a private equity firm that, among other activities, acquires and aggregates spectrum licenses into investment vehicles and derives value from leasing or resale—often timed to precede the buildout deadlines,[8] rather than from building and operating networks. Against a backdrop of clear demand and readily deployable use cases for this spectrum—including Grain's own request to expand the band's flexible-use rules to accommodate direct-to-device applications that could be deployed immediately[9]—the waiver requests associated with this transaction are troubling. Most notably, this includes Grain's request for a 12-year extension of its buildout obligations.[10]

This raises serious questions as to whether Grain intends to quickly and efficiently put this spectrum to the highest and best use or whether it intends to let it sit idle, wait for the valuation to rise, and flip it for a profit. This kind of spectrum speculation has, unfortunately, become more common in recent years and was a not-insignificant factor in the failure of DISH Mobile.[11]

Given the significance of this proceeding and the importance of the 800 MHz band to the future of America's communications networks, it is imperative that the Commission not allow this transaction to become 'DISH Mobile 2.0.' Approval should only be given with specific, enforceable deployment requirements.

The United States cannot afford to let valuable spectrum remain underutilized as demand continues to increase. Allowing it to be held for speculation rather than deployed undermines both our economic and national security interests. The FCC has both the authority and the

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[6] T-Mobile, *T-Mobile and Sprint Receive Clearance from Department of Justice for Merger to Create the New T-Mobile* (July 26, 2019), https://www.t-mobile.com/news/press/t-mobile-sprint-merger-doj-clearance.
[7] *Supra* note 1.
[8] *See, e.g.*, Mike Dano, *T-Mobile Scratches Lowband Itch with Grain's Spectrum*, LIGHT READING (Feb. 7, 2025), https://www.lightreading.com/5g/t-mobile-scratches-lowband-itch-with-grain-s-spectrum.
[9] *Ex Parte Presentation of Grain Management and T-Mobile*, WT Docket No. 25-178 (filed Mar. 26, 2026), https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/1032695241332.
[10] *Joint Reply Comments and Opposition of Grain Management, LLC and T-Mobile USA, Inc.* at 4, WT Docket No. 25-178 (filed June 30, 2025), https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/search/search-filings/filing/10701341606868.
[11] Letter from Brendan Carr, Chairman, Fed. Commc'ns Comm'n, to Charles W. Ergen, Chairman of the Bd., EchoStar Corp. (May 9, 2025), https://prod-i.a.dj.com/public/resources/documents/Carr-Ergen-letter.pdf; Harold Furchtgott-Roth, *How FCC Chairman Carr Took EchoStar From Skid Row to Yellow Brick Road*, REAL CLEAR MARKETS (Sept. 22, 2025), https://www.realclearmarkets.com/articles/2025/09/22/how_fcc_chairman_carr_took_echostar_from_skid_row_to_yellow_brick_road_1136105.html.

responsibility to ensure that this spectrum is put to productive use as quickly as possible—not held as a financial asset awaiting a future payoff.

Thank you for your continued leadership in promoting the effective and efficient use of spectrum. I look forward to your response on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Ted Cruz
Chairman

United States Senate
WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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June 18, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chair
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chair Carr:

On March 23, 2026, we wrote to you with serious concerns regarding the foreign investment in Paramount-Skydance's proposed $110.9 billion acquisition of Warner Bros. Discovery, and your public posture of the investment warranting only a "very quick, almost pro forma review."[1] At the time, we warned that the full scope of foreign involvement had not yet come to light and urged you to conduct a full and independent review of all foreign ownership interests under Section 310(b) of the Communications Act, which prohibits U.S. corporations holding broadcast licenses from being more than 25 percent owned by one or more foreign entities. Since then, the full magnitude of foreign investment has become clear, compounding concerns about the potential risks to national security and foreign policy.

On April 24, 2026, Paramount filed a petition for declaratory ruling with the Federal Communications Commission (Commission) seeking approval for significant indirect foreign investment, formally disclosing that nearly half—approximately 49.5 percent—of the combined Paramount-Warner Bros. Discovery entity would be owned by foreign investors.[2] This is nearly double the statutory threshold prohibiting foreign entities from holding more than 25 percent equity or voting interest in a U.S.-organized entity that controls an FCC-issued license without prior Commission approval.[3] Under FCC rulemaking and procedures, the Commission must now coordinate, through the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the U.S. Telecommunications Services Sector (Committee), with other executive branch agencies to assess the potential national security and foreign policy risks posed by that foreign ownership.

The Commission must foreclose any attempt by Paramount to close this transaction before its Section 310(b)(4) review is complete. That review must rigorously assess the national security threats posed by foreign government investment in one of the nation's largest news media companies. The Commission must also incorporate the Committee's recommendations—a process that, under the governing rules, could take seven months or more—before the Commission takes any final action on the petition.

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[1] Kieran Smith, Daniel Thomas, & Christopher Grimes, *US Media Watchdog Signals Support for Paramount's $110bn Warner Bros Deal*, Financial Times (Mar. 3, 2026, at 1:22 pm), https://www.ft.com/content/94fa2114-55ab-4a17-b3b5-b0f87c91375c?syn-25a6b1a6=1.

[2] Paramount Global, Petition for Declaratory Ruling, at 14, MB Docket No. 26-93 (Apr. 24, 2026), https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/104272462615916/1.

[3] Section 310(b)(4) of the Communications Act

Paramount is Seeking Approval for Up to 100 Percent Foreign Ownership

Paramount's petition seeks far more than approval for the 49.5 percent aggregate foreign investment. The media conglomerate is requesting advance approval for each foreign investor to increase its individual stake up to 20 percent in the future, which, should each of the Sovereign Wealth Funds exercise that option, could result in up to 100 percent aggregate foreign ownership of one of the nation's largest broadcast media companies.[4] While advance approval is standard as a procedural matter, the nature of the request is unprecedented. It seeks open-ended authorization for foreign government expansion into the parent company of CBS, CNN, and 28 broadcast television stations. Advance approval was never designed to authorize the wholesale transfer of control over one of America's most consequential news organizations to foreign government-linked investors absent a finding that such a transfer serves the public interest and does not threaten national security.

The petition's own terms render the 100 percent aggregate approval request as legally unsupported under the Commission's own rules. On January 29, 2026, the Commission adopted a Report and Order codifying and clarifying its foreign ownership framework.[5] That order explicitly limits the scope of advance approval available to foreign investors that hold deemed voting interests without actual de jure or de facto control: such investors may request advance approval only up to a non-controlling 49.99 percent,[6] not up to 100 percent. Paramount's petition acknowledges that the Gulf sovereign wealth funds hold non-voting Class B shares and exercise no actual control, which does not allay national security concerns. Their advance approval request for up to 100 percent aggregate foreign ownership therefore exceeds what the Commission's January 2026 rules permit. The Commission should reject that request out of hand.

Sovereign Wealth Fund Investments Raise Serious National Security Concerns

Paramount's assertion that this transaction "will not present any national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, or trade policy concerns"[7] is not a legal determination the Commission may accept without scrutiny. The Commission's January 2026 foreign ownership Order explicitly preserved the referral process for executive branch review of national security concerns. The Gulf sovereign wealth funds collectively represent the financial instruments of three foreign governments with distinct national interests and a shared record of censorship and press suppression. Saudi Arabia's Public Investment Fund is controlled by Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, whom the U.S. intelligence community concluded ordered the killing of Washington Post journalist Jamal Khashoggi. On that record, the Commission cannot simply accept Paramount's representations at face value.

The structural complexity of these foreign ownership interests alone demands careful scrutiny. The Abu Dhabi investment is not held by a single entity. The filing identifies four separate UAE

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[4] *Supra* note 2 at 16-17.

[5] Report & Order, GN Docket No. 25-149 (FCC 26-3) at 8 n.51, (Jan. 29, 2026) ("Where there is not actual control over the controlling U.S. parent, a petitioner may only request advance approval of up to a noncontrolling 49.99 percent equity and/or voting interest.") https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-26-3A1.pdf .

[6] *Id.* at 7.

[7] *Supra* note 2 at 21.

entities as holding the same 12.8 percent deemed voting interest: L'imad 1st SPV 2 Exempt RSC Ltd, L'imad 1st Holding 1 Exempt RSC Ltd, L'imad 1st Capital Holding Ltd, and L'imad Holding Company-P.J.S.C. Similarly, the Qatar investment is held through both QIA TMT Holding LLC and the Qatar Investment Authority itself, each separately identified for approval at 10.6 percent. To our knowledge, no transaction previously reviewed by the FCC has involved foreign sovereign wealth fund investment of this kind. This layered entity structure, seemingly designed to fragment ownership across multiple vehicles, raises serious questions about the true nature and extent of foreign government control.

Paramount's Public Closing Timeline Raises Serious Concerns About the Integrity of the National Security Review

On April 29, 2026, DOJ's National Security Division notified the Commission that the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector (Committee) had begun its review of the petition.[8] The Committee was to send Paramount tailored questions no later than May 29, 2026, and its initial 120-day review period begins only once Paramount's responses are complete. Under this timeline, the Committee's review could take until late September to conclude—and if it identifies potential national security risks, a second 90-day assessment period follows. Paramount's stated intention to close the deal by July is flatly incompatible with a statutorily required national security review that may not yet have begun.

Additionally, Paramount has publicly characterized its FCC filing as not a condition of closing, signaling its intent to complete the acquisition before the Commission has made a public interest determination.[9] If the Commission permits that it will have converted the Section 310(b)(4) review process into a post-hoc ratification mechanism. That outcome is foreclosed by the statute, and it would render the Commission's foreign ownership framework meaningless in any transaction large enough to close ahead of a pending review. The Commission must issue a formal notice making clear that this transaction may not close while this proceeding is pending.

The Commission's Obligations Before This Transaction May Close

The Communications Act charges the Commission with protecting the public interest. The Commission's own January 2026 rulemaking preserved its authority, and its obligation, to comprehensively review foreign investment for national security threats.

To that end, we request that the Commission, no later than July 1, take the following steps:

1. Issue formal notice to Paramount that the transaction may not close while the Commission's Section 310(b)(4) review and the Committee's national security review are pending.

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[8] Letter from Foreign Investment Revision Section, National Security Division, DOJ, to FCC (Apr. 29, 2026), https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/10429060883440/1.

[9] Jody Godoy & David Shepardson, *Paramount Seeks FCC Approval for Foreign Investors Backing Warner Bros Acquisition*, U.S. News & World Report (Apr. 27, 2026, at 11:33 am), https://money.usnews.com/investing/news/articles/2026-04-27/paramount-seeks-fcc-approval-for-foreign-investors-helping-fund-warner-bros-acquisition.

2. Reject on its face the request for advance approval of up to 100 percent aggregate foreign ownership under § 1.5001(k), which the Commission's own January 2026 Order reserves for investors with actual controlling interests, a category Paramount's petition explicitly disclaims for the Gulf sovereign wealth funds.
3. Publicly disclose the foreign investment commitments in this transaction, including equity commitment letters, subscription agreements, side letters, information rights provisions, and any commercial agreements between the foreign investors and the combined entity.
4. Confirm that the Committee's review is underway and provide a projected timeline for its completion.
5. Confirm whether Attorney General Blanche is serving as Chair of the Committee for purposes of this review, and if he has not recused himself, identify the basis on which he is participating in a national security review with direct financial implications for sovereign wealth funds with documented ties to the Trump administration.
6. Issue a public-facing finding upon completion of the Committee's national security review and resolution of the petition for declaratory ruling, setting forth the Commission's full public interest analysis, the national security considerations weighed, and the basis for any approval, conditional approval, or denial.

The Commission has an obligation to honestly answer a fundamental question: whether placing 49.5 percent of the equity in the parent company of CBS, CNN, and 28 broadcast television stations into the hands of three foreign governments serves the American public. We are prepared to pursue every available avenue—legislative, oversight, and legal—to ensure that it does.

Sincerely,

Cory A. Booker
United States Senator

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20510

June 22, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC's Media Bureau Seeks Comment on Further Empowering Parents to Protect Their Children and Make Informed Choices About the TV Programs Their Children Watch

Dear Chairman Carr:

We write in response to your questions regarding TV ratings and programs that include gender identity themes or topics and to strongly oppose efforts to censor the inclusion of transgender characters or topics, including by rating programming differently just because it includes transgender people.

We strongly believe that parents should decide what their children watch on television. That is why Congress, in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, gave the Federal Communications Commission conditional authority to "prescribe…guidelines and recommended procedures for the identification and rating of video programming that contains sexual, violent, or other indecent material about which parents should be informed before it is displayed to children…"[1] only if the Commission determines that "distributors of video programming have not… established voluntary rules for rating video programming that contains sexual, violent, or other indecent material about which parents should be informed before it is displayed to children."[2] This provision reflected Congress' desire that parents have the tools to make informed decisions about what their children watch based on whether a program includes sexual, violent, or indecent materials. This *conditional* authority also reflected a preference for industry to self-regulate—and that's what happened. Distributors established the TV Oversight Management Board (TVOMB), which developed the TV Parental Guidelines age rating system, and pursuant to the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the Commission found that industry's approach met the relevant statutory criteria. The current guidelines have worked for decades and provide parents with the tools they need to determine what their children should and should not watch. That is why FCC's own most recent annual report found only 11 pieces of public correspondence

[1] Pub. L. No. 104-104, § 551(b).
[2] Pub. L. No. 104-104, § 551(e).

relevant to TVOMB's work.[3] In fact, 96% of parents expressed satisfaction with the accuracy of the rating system for TV shows overall in a survey conducted by TVOMB in 2024.[4]

We are deeply concerned that the questions you pose, such as whether programs should be rated differently because they discuss gender identity, indicate that you believe there is a role for the FCC to play in determining these ratings—despite Congress' preference that these ratings be determined by the industry and Congress explicitly stripping FCC of any authority to do so if the industry establishes such ratings (as they have). This request for comment appears to be an unlawful attempt by FCC to pressure broadcast licensees to censor content, including representation of transgender people, in their programming and just the latest political attempt of FCC to censor content the Administration does not agree with.

The rating system is intended to address "sexual, violent, or other indecent material," and we reject the idea that the inclusion of transgender characters or topics is "sexual, violent, or indecent." Programs should not have higher ratings or content warning simply because of the identity of the programs' characters. Applying higher ratings or content warnings because of a character's gender identity would be harmful to transgender people and transgender acceptance and would harken back to a time when politicians sought to censor television programming because they included minorities.[5] Studies show that LGBTQI+ representation in media both improve young LGBQI+ people's self-acceptance[6] and shape the broader public's acceptance of LGBTQI+ people.[7] This attempt to censor transgender characters is an attempt to roll back acceptance of the transgender community.

Transgender people are part of every community, and many recognize their gender identity at a young age. Transgender people, including transgender young people, deserve to see themselves represented in media—and the public agrees. A 2025 survey found that 78% of non-LGBTQI+ Americans believe everyone deserves to feel represented in media, including on TV.[8]

Any attempt by FCC to censor content because it includes transgender characters or topics would raise both legal and constitutional concerns. As we previously highlighted, FCC lacks authority to prescribe guidelines and recommendations for TV ratings. The FCC is also barred from engaging in censorship or promulgating regulations or conditions that interfere with the right of

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[3] John Hendel, *Brendan Carr floats TV ratings for transgender content*, POLITICO (Apr. 22, 2026), https://www.politico.com/news/2026/04/22/brendan-carr-tv-gender-identity-fcc-00887017.

[4] *TV Content Rating System Reaches Record Satisfaction and Usage Levels, Survey Finds (Press Release)*, TV PARENTAL GUIDELINES MONITORING BOARD (Dec. 11, 2024), https://www.tvguidelines.org/resources/Release_121124.pdf.

[5] *See, e.g.*, Kristin Hunt, *Mississippi banned 'Sesame Street' for showing Black and White kids playing*, WASH. POST (Feb. 5, 2023), https://www.washingtonpost.com/history/2023/02/05/sesame-street-ban-mississippi/.

[6] 2022 National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health, THE TREVOR PROJECT (May 2022), https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2022/#representation

[7] *See, e.g.,* Brent Lang, Ellen DeGeneres Influenced Gay Rights Views More Than Any Other Celebrity (Study), VARIETY (June 30, 2015), https://variety.com/2015/tv/news/ellen-degeneres-gay-rights-gay-marriage-1201531462/; *Accelerating Acceptance 2025 Report,* GLAAD (2025), https://glaad.org/accelerating-acceptance-2025/ .

[8] GLAAD, *supra* n. 7.

free speech.[9] Any attempt to issue rating warnings for depictions and themes related to transgender people would also raise concerns of content-based and viewpoint discrimination in violation of the First Amendment.

In conclusion, we urge the FCC to abandon any efforts to seek to impose higher ratings on programs or content warnings because the program includes transgender characters or topics. As FCC Commissioner Anna Gomez stated, "This is a solution in search of a problem, and another example of this Commission prioritizing culture war politics over the real issues that affect consumers every day."[10]

Sincerely,

Mark Takano
Member of Congress

Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress

Mark Pocan
Member of Congress

Angie Craig
Member of Congress

Ritchie Torres
Member of Congress

Becca Balint
Member of Congress

Robert Garcia
Member of Congress

Julie Johnson
Member of Congress

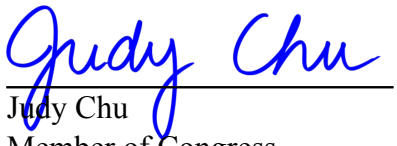
[9] 47 U.S. Code § 326
[10] Hendel *supra* n. 3.



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Judy Chu
Member of Congress



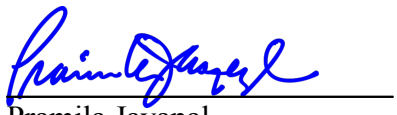
Maxine Dexter, M.D.
Member of Congress



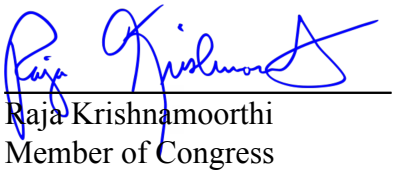
Lloyd Doggett
Member of Congress



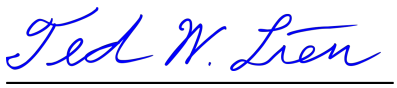
Lizzie Fletcher
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



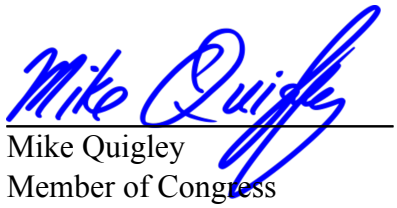
Raja Krishnamoorthi
Member of Congress



Ted W. Lieu
Member of Congress



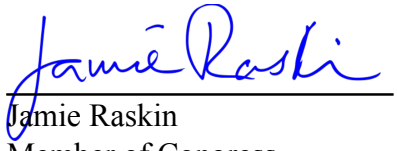
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



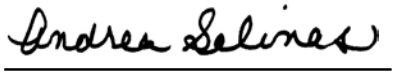
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Member of Congress



Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress



Jamie Raskin
Member of Congress



Andrea Salinas
Member of Congress

Mary Gay Scanlon
Member of Congress

Lateefah Simon
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Sylvia R. Garcia
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Member of Congress

Adelita S. Grijalva
Member of Congress

Val Hoyle
Member of Congress

Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress

Sydney Kamlager-Dove
Member of Congress

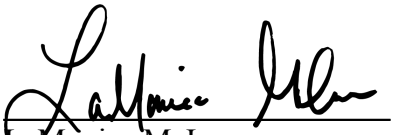
Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress

Summer L. Lee
Member of Congress

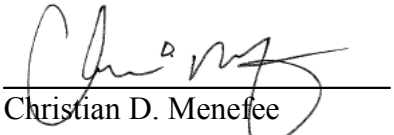
Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress

Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress

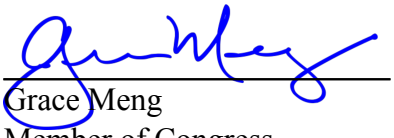
Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



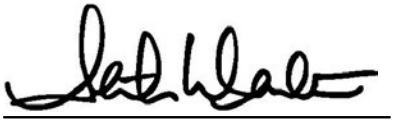
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



Christian D. Menefee
Member of Congress



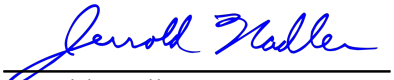
Grace Meng
Member of Congress



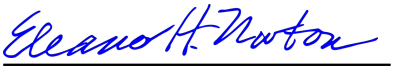
SETH MOULTON
Member of Congress



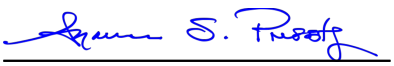
Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress



Jerrold Nadler
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Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



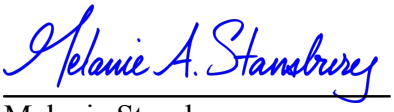
Ayanna Pressley
Member of Congress



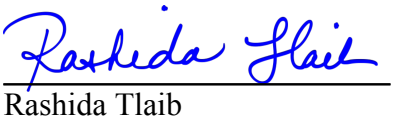
Delia C. Ramirez
Member of Congress



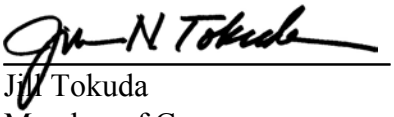
Luz M. Rivas
Member of Congress



Melanie Stansbury
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Jill Tokuda
Member of Congress



Paul D. Tonko
Member of Congress

Lauren Underwood
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Bonnie Watson Coleman
Member of Congress

Nikema Williams
Member of Congress

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SPRINGFIELD, MA 01103
413-785-4610

June 5, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr,

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is attempting to use legislation that I authored — the V-chip law — to pressure the television ratings system to place a special warning on programming that acknowledges transgender and nonbinary Americans. This effort twists my V-chip law from a parental-control tool into a culture-war weapon against LGBTQ+ Americans. The V-chip was intended to help parents make choices, not to let Washington bureaucrats mark transgender people, nonbinary people, or LGBTQ+ families as inappropriate for children. Your proceeding is legally baseless, morally cruel, and dangerous to First Amendment-protected speech. The FCC must end this attack and withdraw any effort to misuse a parental-choice law as a vehicle for government-sponsored discrimination.

As the House author of the V-chip legislation, I know what that law was designed to do: create a parental-control framework to help families make their own decisions about television programming in their own homes. Congress enacted the V-chip in response to concerns about television violence and sexual content, and the law helped spur the industry to create the TV Parental Guidelines so parents could make informed choices.[1] Although Congress allowed the FCC to develop guidelines and recommended procedures if the industry failed to create its own ratings system,[2] the conference report made clear that those guidelines were not binding rules and the FCC could not require adoption of any recommended ratings system.[3] Ultimately, industry created the TV Parental Guidelines, the FCC accepted that system in 1998, and that voluntary framework remains in place today.[4] Moreover, the law specifically stated that it

[1] Telecommunications Act of 1996, Pub. L. No. 104-104, § 551.
[2] *Id.*
[3] S. Conf. Rep. No. 104-230, at 195 (1996).
[4] FCC, Implementation of Section 551 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Video Programming Ratings, 13 FCC Rcd. 8232 (1998); *see also* FCC, Report on Television Ratings and the Oversight Monitoring Board, DA 19-423, ¶¶ 3-4 (May 16, 2019).

provided the FCC no authority to rate video programming "on the basis of its political or religious content."[5] In other words, Congress carefully crafted the V-chip law to give parents tools to decide what was appropriate for their own children; it did not give future FCC chairs continuing authority to declare that transgender people, nonbinary people, or LGBTQ+ families are themselves inappropriate for children.

Yet, that is exactly what the FCC, under your leadership, appears to be doing with this proceeding. The Public Notice states that parents have raised concerns that "controversial gender identity issues" are being included or promoted in children's programming without "disclosure or transparency," then asks whether programs rated TV-Y, TV-Y7, and TV-G that contain "discussion or promotion of gender identity themes" should be rated differently or contain "relevant descriptions."[6] Those questions are not a neutral effort to assess whether the existing ratings system is working as Congress intended. They single out gender identity for special government scrutiny. Congress did not authorize the FCC to convert the V-chip's limited parental-control framework into authority to pressure the industry to display new labels for programming involving gender identity. Indeed, Congress did not even authorize the FCC to require adoption of its own recommended ratings system. The FCC therefore has no basis to pressure broadcasters, programmers, distributors, or ratings bodies to brand LGBTQ+ Americans as harmful.

This proceeding also threatens First Amendment principles. The Communications Act expressly states that the FCC has no censorship power and may not impose any regulation or condition that interferes with the right of free speech.[7] Yet a government-pushed gender identity label would tell viewers that the presence of transgender and nonbinary people is special content from which children may need protection. The FCC cannot avoid that problem by styling its effort as a request for comment or by acting through the ratings system rather than directly against programmers. The Public Notice — from the federal agency that licenses broadcasters, reviews media transactions, and enforces communications law — implicitly pressures regulated entities to disfavor content involving transgender and nonbinary people. That is the exact type of government-driven speech pressure that the Communications Act — and the First Amendment — prohibits.[8] It has also been a hallmark of the FCC under your leadership.[9]

Most importantly, the FCC's proceeding is discriminatory and cruel. There is nothing indecent about being transgender. There is nothing harmful about a child seeing a nonbinary character, a transgender classmate, or a family that reflects the real people in their school and community. Existing ratings already address sexual content, violence, fantasy violence, crude

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[5] Telecommunications Act of 1996, *supra*, note 1.

[6] FCC, Public Notice, FCC's Media Bureau Seeks Comment on Further Empowering Parents to Protect Their Children and Make Informed Choices About the TV Programs Their Children Watch, MB Docket No. 19-41, DA 26-392, at 2, 4 (Apr. 22, 2026).

[7] 47 U.S.C. § 326.

[8] *See* Bantam Books, Inc. v. Sullivan, 372 U.S. 58 (1963); Nat'l Rifle Ass'n of Am. v. Vullo, 602 U.S. 175 (2024).

[9] *See, e.g.*, Letter from Senator Edward J. Markey et al. to Brendan Carr, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission (May 7, 2026), https://www.markey.senate.gov/news/press-releases/markey-schumer-cantwell-lujan-demand-fcc-stop-first-amendment-attacks-on-disney-abc.

language, and suggestive dialogue wherever they appear.[10] Singling out gender identity tells LGBTQ+ children that their existence is a problem and tells programmers to make them disappear. This is an unacceptable and outrageous attack on families with LGBTQ+ parents, LGBTQ+ children, and LGBTQ+ loved ones.

The FCC should withdraw this proceeding and make clear that it will not require or pressure video programmers or distributors to display any rating, advisory, or label based on gender identity, sexual orientation, or LGBTQ+ themes.

Thank you for your prompt consideration of this important issue.

Sincerely,

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

[10] TV Parental Guidelines Monitoring Board, The TV Parental Guidelines, https://www.tvguidelines.org/resources/TheRatings.pdf.

JOHN KENNEDY
LOUISIANA

SUITE SR-437
RUSSELL BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20510
(202) 224-4623

United States Senate

COMMITTEES
APPROPRIATIONS
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JUDICIARY

262

July 24th, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr:

I write in support of the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) efforts to implement the Upper C-band spectrum transition through an approach that protects U.S. consumers, advances national communications priorities, and strengthens the domestic satellite industrial base.

As part of the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, Congress directed the FCC to auction up to 180 MHz of Upper C-band spectrum for land-based 5G applications. I recognize this spectrum is currently used for satellite communications throughout North America, including television broadcast distribution and other important applications. As satellite operators work to shift these services to other parts of the radio frequency spectrum, they will need to procure replacement satellites to maintain continuity of service and meet the FCC's clearing objectives. These satellites will operate in North American orbital slots and serve North American users.

Supporting U.S. manufacturers would help ensure that the Upper C-band clearing can be completed by the end of 2030 while also preserving America's satellite industrial capacity. During the FCC's previous Lower C-band clearing program, U.S. manufacturers successfully delivered a total of 11 replacement satellites.[1,2] Replicating this success for Upper C-band would sustain domestic manufacturing capability and support the long-term health of the U.S. satellite industrial base.

At the same time, European satellite manufacturers may seek to participate in this FCC-initiated program. Some European firms are supported by significant government grants and incentives in their home markets,[3] while U.S. manufacturers often face barriers to participation in comparable European government programs. Because this transition involves the use of valuable

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[1] Jewett, Rachel. "Intelsat's Galaxy 37/Horizons-4 Marks 40 Years of the Galaxy Fleet." *Via Satellite*, 3 Aug. 2023, www.satellitetoday.com/launch/2023/08/03/intelsats-galaxy-37-horizons-4-marks-40-years-of-the-galaxy-fleet/.

[2] "SES Selects Two U.S. Companies to Build Four New Satellites as Part of Accelerated C-Band Clearing Plan | SES." *Ses.com*, 22 Oct. 2025, www.ses.com/press-release/ses-selects-two-us-companies-build-four-new-satellites-part-accelerated-c-band.

[3] "Research, Development and Innovation - European Commission." *Defence-Industry-Space.ec.europa.eu*, defence-industry-space.ec.europa.eu/eu-space/research-development-and-innovation_en.

public spectrum, the FCC should ensure that its implementation protects the interests of U.S. taxpayers and ensures the economic benefits support American workers and manufacturers. Given these circumstances, a "Buy American" clause would best align this transition with broader U.S. economic and strategic interests.

By including a "Buy American" clause in the Upper C-band Report and Order, the FCC can help ensure that the benefits of this spectrum transition extend beyond the 5G ecosystem and support American workers, American manufacturers, and the continued strength of the U.S. satellite supply chain. That approach would advance the Commission's spectrum-clearing objectives while reinforcing U.S. industrial competitiveness and technological leadership.

I respectfully urge the FCC to include a "Buy American" clause in its final Report and Order governing the Upper C-band transition. I appreciate the FCC's leadership and look forward to continued collaboration to ensure a successful Upper C-band transition.

Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



John Kennedy
United States Senator

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

267

June 26, 2026

The Honorable Markwayne Mullin
Secretary
U.S. Department of Homeland Security
2707 Martin Luther King Jr. Ave SE
Washington, DC 20240

The Honorable Howard Lutnick
Secretary
U.S. Department of Commerce
1401 Constitution Ave, NW
Washington, D.C. 20230

The Honorable Bill Pulte
Acting Director of National Intelligence
Office of the Director of National Intelligence
Washington, DC 20511

The Honorable Frank J. Bisignano
Commissioner
U.S. Social Security Administration
6401 Security Blvd,
Woodlawn, MD 21207

The Honorable Pete Hegseth
Secretary of Defense
Department of Defense
Washington, DC 20301
1000 Defense Pentagon

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L St NE
Washington, DC 20554

The Honorable Todd Blanche
Acting Attorney General
U.S. Department of Justice
Washington, DC 20535

David Steiner
Postmaster General
United States Postal Service
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW
Washington, D.C. 20260

The Honorable Kash Patel
Director
Federal Bureau of Investigation
Washington, DC 20535

David Warrington
White House Counsel
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW,
Washington, DC 20500

Dear all:

We write regarding alarming reports that your agencies have taken, or are at risk of taking actions under the guise of election security that are improper or illegal;[1] to warn against such violations; and to ensure you adhere to your obligations, and those of all departments,

[1] See, e.g., State of California v Trump (No. 1:26-cv-11581); DSCC v. Trump (No. 1:26-cv-01114); Exec. Order No. 14399, 91 Fed. Reg. 17125 (Mar. 31, 2026) (www.federalregister.gov/d/2026-06601); Maggie Miller and Dana Nickel, Gabbard's Seizure of Voting Machines Heightens Concerns of Midterm Meddling, Politico (Feb. 6, 2026); Evan Casey, FBI Visited Home of Milwaukee County's Election Director, Wisconsin Public Radio (May 14, 2026).

agencies, and sub-agencies under your control, to comply with all applicable federal records preservation laws and agency policies.[2]

President Trump and his Administration have engaged in multiple efforts to undermine past election results, despite all evidence the elections were free and fair. In just the last several months, for example, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) conducted a search of a Fulton County, Georgia, election center, where agents seized ballots from the 2020 presidential election, even though numerous bipartisan and nonpartisan prior investigations at the state and federal level have revealed no suggestion of criminal conduct.[3] The then-Director of National Intelligence participated in this raid despite no evidence or suggestion of foreign interference in that election, raising serious questions about potential improper coordination between the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) and federal law enforcement agencies outside of ODNI's statutory authorities.[4] Similarly, ODNI seized voting machines and other election data from Puerto Rico, reportedly in support of the Administration's amplification of baseless election conspiracy theories.[5] Then-Director Gabbard also made unsubstantiated claims that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency (CISA) was aware of, but did not disclose, election vulnerabilities.[6]

There are also serious concerns about ongoing efforts by this Administration to undermine the integrity of and actively interfere with the 2026 elections. President Trump has threatened "[t]he federal government should get involved. These are agents of the federal government to count the vote."[7] Several of you have refused to rule out the possibility that you would direct your departments and agencies to send federal law enforcement agents or military service members under your jurisdiction to election sites during the election period – steps that

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[2] Federal Records Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 3101, 3106; Presidential Records Act, 44 U.S.C. §§ 2201 – 2203; Paperwork Reduction Act, 44 U.S.C. § 3506; 18 U.S.C. § 2071 (concealing, removing, or destroying records is a criminal offense); 39 C.F.R. §§ 261 – 268.

[3] *See e.g.,* Press Release, State Election Board Clears Fulton County "Ballot Suitcase" Investigation; Report Finds No Evidence of Conspiracy, No Fraud, Office of Georgia Sec'y of State (Jun. 20, 2023), https://sos.ga.gov/news/state-election-board-clears-fulton-county-ballot-suitcase-investigation-report-finds-no; Stanley Dunlap, *Georgia Election Board Dismisses Claims of 'Ballot Harvesting' in 2020 Election*, Georgia Recorder (May 18, 2022), https://georgiarecorder.com/2022/05/18/georgia-election-board-dismisses-claims-of-ballot-harvesting-in-2020-election; Mike Balsamo, *Disputing Trump, Barr Says No Widespread Election Fraud*, AP (Dec. 1, 2020), https://apnews.com/article/barr-no-widespread-election-fraud-b1f1488796c9a98c4b1a9061a6c7f49d; *see also* Senate Committee on the Judiciary, *Subverting Justice: How the President and His Allies Pressured DOJ to Overturn the 2020 Election* (Oct. 2021), *available at* https://www.judiciary.senate.gov/interim-majority-staff-report.

[4] *Trump Had Unusual Call With F.B.I. Agents After Election Center Search*, New York Times (Feb. 2, 2026) (https://www.nytimes.com/2026/02/02/us/politics/trump-fbi-phone-call-georgia-gabbard.html); Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, *Worldwide Threats*, 119th Cong. (Mar. 18, 2026).

[5] Maggie Miller and Dana Nickel, *Gabbard's Seizure of Voting Machines Heightens Concerns of Midterm Meddling*, Politico (Feb. 6, 2026).

[6] *Gabbard's Seizure of Voting Machines Heightens Concerns of Midterm Meddling*, Politico (Feb. 6, 2026) ((https://subscriber.politicopro.com/article/2026/02/gabbard-trump-election-midterms-voting-integrity-00769768); The Benny Show, *Tulsi Gabbard TORCHES Hillary's 'TREASONOUS' Actions to RIG Election as She Drops 'Smoking Gun…* (July 31, 2025; 19:41) (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NludG6fl1Vc).

[7] Anders Hagstrom, *Trump Doubles Down on Calls for GOP to 'Nationalize' Voting as Congressional Leaders Balk*, Fox News (Feb. 4, 2026) (https://www.foxnews.com/politics/trump-doubles-down-calls-gop-nationalize-voting-congressional-leaders-balk).

are clearly illegal.[8] The Department of Justice (DOJ) has repeatedly pursued unsupported claims of elections fraud.[9]

Several of you are also involved in implementing President Trump's unlawful Executive Orders interfering with state and local control over the administration of elections. For example, Secretary Lutnick is threatening to withhold the delivery of lawful ballots unless states comply with President Trump's unconstitutional attempt to "take over the voting."[10] Further, individuals at the Social Security Administration (SSA) inappropriately entered into a secret agreement to share sensitive data with a partisan advocacy group for partisan political purposes – and SSA has to date refused to provide Congress with unredacted documentation of these activities. [11] Chairman Carr has repeatedly used his position to chill disfavored speech, and continues to make threats to interfere with candidates' ability to reach their audiences.

We are also deeply troubled by the fact that many of your agencies have failed to address election security altogether. You have shuttered offices tasked with tracking foreign malign influence on elections as well as cyber and physical threats to elections infrastructure, and you have cut funding and personnel for CISA and FBI election security efforts.[12]

The American public deserve to have confidence that their leaders are acting in good faith and in accordance with the law. We therefore direct you to preserve all existing and future records and materials on election-related activities and efforts, including any records regarding potential election-related misconduct, impropriety, irregularity, or interference. Such records include, but are not limited to, all meeting agendas and rosters, associated notes, briefing memos, legal opinions, guidance, advice, communications, and correspondence. Additionally, any communications on personal messaging accounts, including Signal, social media accounts, and personal email accounts, that concern government business are subject to the Federal Records Act and must be preserved.[13]

Safeguarding information critical to congressional oversight and preserving federal records is a legal obligation that you and all of your agency employees are required to meet. Please take all necessary steps to ensure that employees do not delete or destroy any official government records, including "information created, manipulated, or stored" electronically.[14]

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[8] Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, *Hearing on the Nomination of the Honorable Markwayne Mullin to be Secretary, U.S. Department of Homeland Security*, 119th Cong. (Mar. 18, 2026) (S. Hrg. 119-353); *Pete Hegseth Delivers Chilling Non-Answer to Crucial Midterm Election Question*, Yahoo (Apr. 30, 2026) (https://www.yahoo.com/news/articles/pete-hegseth-delivers-chilling-non-050244578.html?).

[9] Justice Department officials dance around Trump's unsupported claims of California election fraud, CNN (June 10, 2026) (https://www.cnn.com/2026/06/10/politics/trump-la-election-fraud-justice-department).

[10] The Dan Bongino Show. I'm Back (Feb. 2, 2026: 1:39:22) https://rumble.com/v756t38-im-back-ep.-2443-02022026.html?e9s=src_v1_ucp_a.

[11] Notice of Corrections to the Record (Jan. 16, 2026) *American Federation of State & Mun. Employees v. Soc. Sec. Admin*., D. Md. (No. 1:25-cv-00596).

[12] *How the Federal Government Is Undermining Election Security*, Brennan Center for Justice (Apr. 14, 2025) (https://www.brennancenter.org/our-work/research-reports/how-federal-government-undermining-election-security); US Cyber Team hasn't been Activated yet to Protect Midterm Elections from Foreign Meddling, CNN (Apr. 30, 2026) (https://www.cnn.com/2026/04/30/politics/cyber-team-midterm-elections-foreign-meddling).

[13] *See, e.g.,* 44 U.S.C. § 2911; 44 U.S.C. §§ 3506, 3563.

[14] 44 U.S.C § 3301(a)(2).

As you know, any employee who conceals, destroys, or attempts to conceal or destroy a federal record may be subject to fine and imprisonment.[15]

Sincerely,

Charles E. Schumer
United States Senator

Mark R. Warner
United States Senator
Vice Chairman, Select
Committee on Intelligence

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Homeland Security and
Governmental Affairs

Alex Padilla
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee
on Rules and Administration

Richard J. Durbin
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Senate
Committee on the Judiciary

Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member, Committee
on Commerce, Science, and
Transportation

Jack Reed
Ranking Member, Committee
on Armed Services

Patty Murray
United States Senator
Vice Chair, Committee on
Appropriations

[15] 18 U.S.C. § 2071.

Ron Wyden
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee on Finance

Christopher S. Murphy
Chairman, Homeland Security Appropriations Subcommittee

Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator

Raphael Warnock
United States Senator

Elissa Slotkin
United States Senator

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

Sheldon Whitehouse
United States Senator

Bernard Sanders
United States Senator

Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

Mark Kelly
United States Senator

Christopher A. Coons
United States Senator

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator



Ruben Gallego
United States Senator

CC: General Joshua M. Rudd, Director, National Security Agency
Nicholas Andersen, Acting Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, U.S. Department of Homeland Security
Christopher Fox, Inspector General of the Intelligence Community
Joseph V. Cuffari, Inspector General, Department of Homeland Security
Platte B. Moring, Inspector General, Department of Defense
Duane Townsend, Inspector General, Department of Commerce
M. Sean O'Neill, Assistant Inspector General, Department of Justice
Fara Damelin, Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission
Tammy Hull, Inspector General, United States Postal Service
Michelle L. Anderson, First Assistant Inspector General, Social Security Administration

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

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July 22, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr:

On behalf of the constituents of the California Delegation, we raise serious concerns with AT&T's petitions to discontinue landline service, be relieved of its Carrier of Last Resort (COLR) obligations and remove its Eligible Telecommunications Carrier status. This continued attempt by AT&T to cease operations of critical networks in areas that are prone to wildfires, landslides, massive snowstorms, and earthquakes would leave approximately 200,000 California residential and business customers without alternative communications in the event of a cellular outage. Relatedly, as has befallen AT&T in the recent past, these outages could last for days, weeks, and in some cases, months. We urge the Commission to deny AT&T's various applications because the negative consequences for the public far outweigh any benefits, and the proposed replacement is wholly inadequate.

Congress has, in the past, advocated for the maintenance of landline service to address the worsening severity of natural disasters and their impact on our constituents. In 2024, fifteen members of the California delegation sent a bipartisan letter to then CPUC President Alice Busching Reynolds explaining the need for continued landline service and Congress' actions to provide funds to ensure residents are able to communicate and reach emergency services during natural disasters.[1] As we highlighted then and do so again now, there is no remediation possible for loss of life.

The FCC's stated mission is to ensure that all people of the United States, without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex have access to rapid, efficient, nationwide and worldwide communications services for the purpose of promoting safety of life and property. Granting AT&T's petitions is incompatible with this goal. The increasing frequency and severity of fires, earthquakes, floods, and other natural disasters, has created situations where households can be left without power for days and weeks at a time. In fact, this year alone CalFire has already reported over two thousand fires affecting approximately sixty-five thousand acres of land across California. If landlines are removed, it presents the very real question of how affected households will be able to call for emergency services in areas where cellular reception is weak or non-existent. Moreover, the removal of landlines makes it unclear how emergency services will be able to reach affected households with evacuation information or assistance.

We recognize the importance of modernizing our networks and expanding fiber-optic infrastructure to underserved communities. However, these efforts must be carried out in a manner that protects public safety and preserves resilient access for vulnerable communities during emergencies and outages.

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[1] Letter from Reps. Thompson, LaMalfa et al. to Alice Busching Reynolds, President, California Public Utilities Commission, Feb. 20, 2024, https://mikethompson.house.gov/newsroom/press-releases/thompson-leads-bipartisan-letter-calling-cpuc-protect-access-landline.

AT&T's proposed wireless replacement system, "Phone—Advanced," lacks the resilience of traditional copper networks during emergency situations. Unlike copper lines, wireless infrastructure depends on electrical grids and cellular towers that are highly vulnerable to destruction during natural disasters. Furthermore, California regulatory authorities recently admonished AT&T for providing incomplete and contradictory data regarding the actual availability and quality of alternative wireless coverage in these regions. While AT&T seeks federal approval to discontinue these services, our constituents are already reporting localized network service disruptions alongside increasing monthly costs.

Beyond the immediate impact on emergency communications, AT&T's petitions seek to override established state-level authority. Under Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, states retain clear authority to regulate intrastate telecommunications to safeguard public safety. Allowing a federal preemption in this instance would diminish California's oversight capabilities and set a far-reaching precedent regarding state sovereignty over public utilities nationwide. We ask the Commission to respect the state's role as a primary regulator of local public safety and utility service standards.

As of June 22, 2026, almost 450 comments have been received by the Commission asking it to deny AT&T's varying petitions. And the concerns remain bipartisan, as Californians across the political spectrum recognize that seniors, rural residents, and people living in areas prone to natural disasters rely on landlines as a lifesaving backstop.[2]

We urge you to fully and fairly consider these comments when determining whether to approve AT&T's petitions. If the Commission moves forward with an approval, which we believe will cause great harm in California, we urge the Commission to, at a minimum, consider an exception for residents who live in high fire threat areas, areas prone to other natural disasters, and areas where there is no verified data on indoor cellular service reliability and quality. We encourage you to fully consider the concerns from our constituents about the impacts the loss of land lines would have on the safety of our communities.

Sincerely,

Doris Matsui
Member of Congress

Adam B. Schiff
United States Senator

Jimmy Panetta
Member of Congress

Mike Thompson
Member of Congress

[2] *See, e.g.,* Letter from Steve Hilton to FCC Chairman Carr, July 6, 2026 ("The FCC should not wipe away state consumer protections and public-safety rules simply because a large corporation no longer wants to maintain a service that vulnerable Californians still rely on."); Ben Paviour, *Steve Hilton asks Trump's FCC to stand down in California landline dispute*, Sacramento Bee, July 6, 2026, https://www.sacbee.com/news/politics-government/capitol-alert/article316406147.html.

Mark DeSaulnier
Member of Congress

Kevin Mullin
Member of Congress

Brad Sherman
Member of Congress

Jim Costa
Member of Congress

Laura Friedman
Member of Congress

Judy Chu
Member of Congress

Mike Levin
Member of Congress

Scott H. Peters
Member of Congress

Maxine Waters
Member of Congress

James Gallagher
Member of Congress

Lateefah Simon
Member of Congress

Jared Huffman
Member of Congress

Linda T. Sánchez
Member of Congress

George Whitesides
Member of Congress

Ro Khanna
Member of Congress

Gilbert Ray Cisneros, Jr.
Member of Congress

Julia Brownley
Member of Congress

Sam T. Liccardo
Member of Congress

Salud Carbajal
Member of Congress

Zoe Lofgren
Member of Congress

Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress

Alex Padilla
United States Senator

Nanette Diaz Barragán
Member of Congress

John Garamendi
Member of Congress

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

July 30, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Promoting Consumer Choice and Wireless Competition Through Handset Unlocking Requirements and Policies (Docket 24-186)

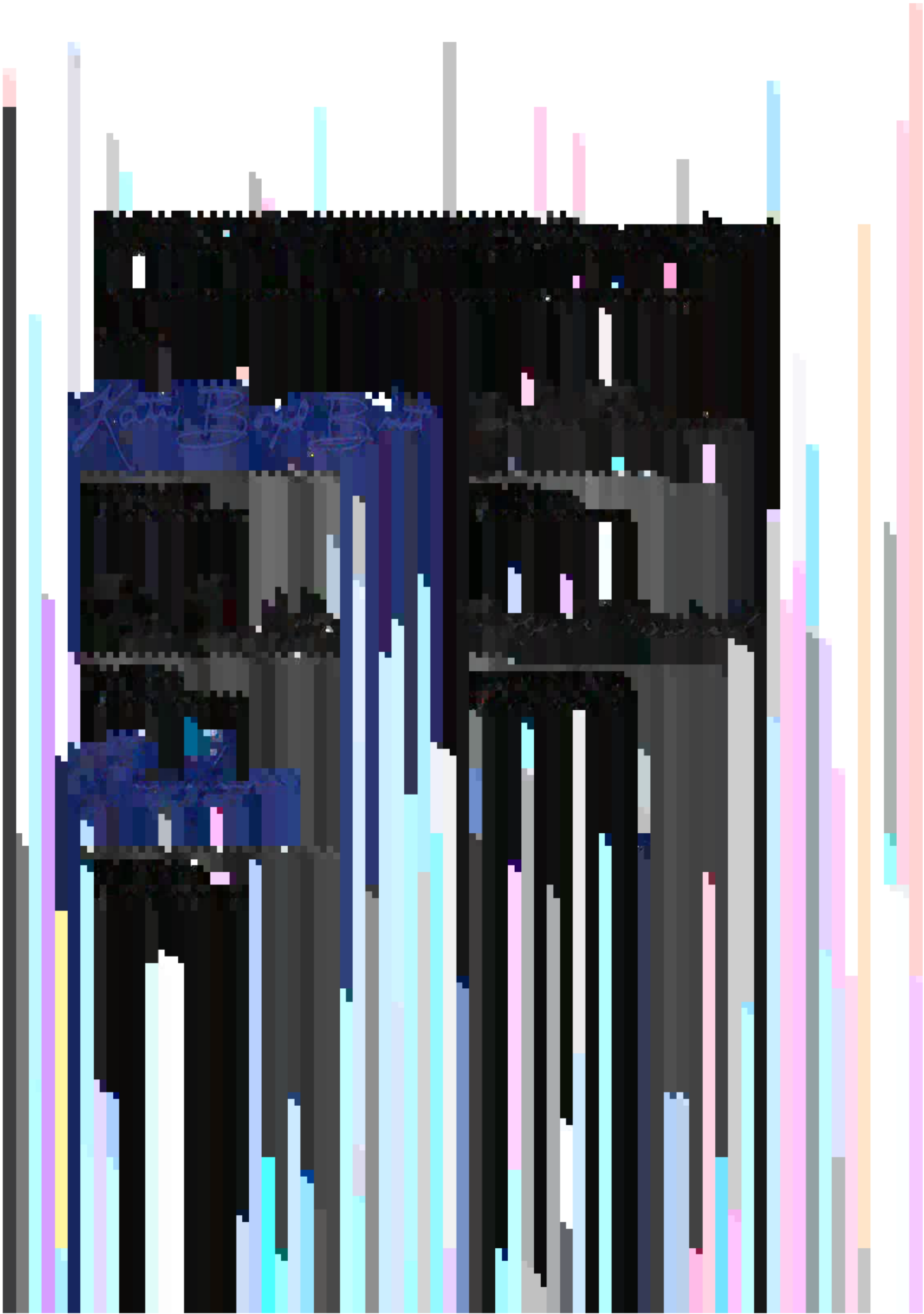
Dear Chairman Carr,

We strongly support the Federal Communications Commission's efforts to address affordability for consumers by adopting a more uniform standard to mobile device unlocking rules. Due to President Trump and your work, the Consumer Price Index shows the overall real cost of wireless service declined over 6 percent last year. As an effort to build on this work, we write to urge the Commission to finalize its rulemaking on mobile device unlocking to restore consumer freedom and competitive market principles so consumers can take full advantage of lower prices.

Most mobile phones sold in the United States contain software that prevents the device from being used on different mobile networks. These "locked" phones create artificial restrictions for consumers that hinder competition and can keep families in overpriced plans even when far more affordable options are readily available. The inconsistency among carrier practices functions as a barrier that restricts consumer freedom and limits competition. Providing a clear, nationwide unlocking rule would allow the wireless marketplace to operate more freely and efficiently. It would promote competition, encourage innovation, and deliver tangible affordability benefits to American households.

Recent national polling shows that 93 percent of voters agree that it should be easy to take your cellphone or device with you to a new wireless provider, just like you can take your phone number with you. Given the overwhelming public support, the Commission has a unique opportunity to make an impactful difference in American's lives by addressing affordability for consumers and promoting a vibrant and competitive mobile marketplace for years to come.

We urge the Commission to seize this opportunity and finalize its pending rulemaking. We believe the Commission can adopt a reasonable, time-limited standard, such as 180 days, to appropriately address fraud mitigation while ensuring consumers are not indefinitely restricted


Kati Boyd Bra

From:	Erin Boone
To:	Danielle Thumann
Subject:	FW: Letter from Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to the Federal Communications Commission
Date:	Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:43:16 PM
Attachments:	2025-3-12 Letter from Sen. Richard Blumenthal to Patrick Webre and Erin Boone.pdf

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Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 3:44 PM
To: Patrick Webre <Patrick.Webre@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>
Subject: FW: Letter from Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to the Federal Communications Commission

Hi team,

Please find attached a letter address to Erin and Patrick from the Senator Blumenthal in his capacity as Ranking Member on the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

All best,
Matt

From: Blumenthal, PSI (HSGAC) <PSI_Blumenthal@hsgac.senate.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 3:31 PM
To: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Subject: Letter from Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal, Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations, to the Federal Communications Commission

You don't often get email from psi_blumenthal@hsgac.senate.gov. Learn why this is important

Hello,

Attached is a letter for Patrick Webre, Acting Bureau Chief of the Enforcement Bureau, and Erin Boone, Acting Bureau Chief of the Media Bureau, of the Federal Communications Commission from Ranking Member Richard Blumenthal of the United States Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations.

Please provide all material and information requested in the letter to the Subcommittee by no later

than March 26, 2025. Please contact Subcommittee staff at PSI_Blumenthal@hsgac.senate.gov or 202-224-9505 with any questions.

Please confirm receipt.

Thank you.

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
Senator Richard Blumenthal, Ranking Member
(202) 224 - 9505
PSI_Blumenthal@hsgac.senate.gov

RAND PAUL, KENTUCKY, CHAIRMAN

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RICK SCOTT, FLORIDA
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JOHN FETTERMAN, PENNSYLVANIA
ANDY KIM, NEW JERSEY
RUBEN GALLEGO, ARIZONA
ELISSA SLOTKIN, MICHIGAN

United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6250

March 12, 2025

VIA EMAIL

Mr. Patrick Webre
Acting Bureau Chief
Enforcement Bureau

Ms. Erin Boone
Acting Bureau Chief
Media Bureau

Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Webre and Ms. Boone:

Since becoming Chair of the Federal Communications Commission ("FCC" or the "Commission") on January 20, 2025, Brendan Carr has publicly ordered that the Media and Enforcement Bureaus reopen complaints and initiate unprecedented, intrusive investigations against media broadcasters under arbitrary and capricious pretenses — investigations that appear to exclusively target newsrooms and broadcasters that President Trump perceives as enemies. In order to understand whether the FCC is departing from longtime guidance and legal precedent to intentionally retaliate against, or otherwise chill, broadcasters that may be disfavored by the President, I write to request information and documents concerning all FCC enforcement actions, warnings, briefings, interpretive rules, cases, records, advisories, letters, and any other materials relevant to the Commission's enforcement of matters involving news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and broadcasters' public interest obligations.

The FCC's recent investigations and complaints, which threaten to put the government in the newsrooms of broadcast stations across the country, have targeted:

- **WPVI-TV (ABC),** reopening a closed complaint filed by the Center for American Rights alleging "news distortion" over an ABC moderator's factchecking of a Presidential debate.[1]

[1] *Center for American Rights Files FCC and FEC Legal Complaints Over ABC News' Debate Bias*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS (Sept. 25, 2024), https://www.americanrights.org/cases/center-for-american-rights-files-fcc-and-fec-legal-complaints-over-abc-news-debate-bias/; *News Distortion Complaint Involving WPVI*

- **WCBS-TV (CBS),** reopening a closed complaint filed by the Center for American Rights alleging "news distortion" over "Face the Nation" and "60 Minutes" interviews with former Vice President Harris.[2]

- **Paramount's proposed sale of CBS licenses to Skydance Media,** obtaining and disclosing a video and transcript of a "60 Minutes" interview that was criticized by President Trump and publicly supporting an opposition filing by the Center for American Rights.[3]

- **WNBC-TV (NBC),** reopening a closed complaint filed by the Center for American Rights alleging failure to provide equal time for an appearance by former Vice President Harris on Saturday Night Live.[4]

- **Comcast and NBCUniversal,** requesting that the Enforcement Bureau open an investigation of Comcast and NBCUniversal alleging its diversity hiring efforts violate the FCC's non-discrimination rules.[5]

- **NPR and PBS,** requesting that the Media Bureau open an investigation alleging violations of the FCC's underwriting rules for noncommercial broadcasters in a letter from Chair Carr that also weighed in on Congressional funding of both.[6] The FCC has reportedly escalated its investigation by sending more than a dozen letters of inquiry to

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Television (Philadelphia), LLC, licensee of WPVI-TV, Philadelphia, PA et al., Order (EB Jan. 22, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-84A1.pdf.

[2] *CBS Accused of News Distortion in Vice President Kamala Harris Interview — Center for American Rights Files Formal FCC Complaint*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS (Oct. 16, 2024), https://www.americanrights.org/cases/cbs-accused-of-news-distortion-in-vice-president-kamala-harris-interview-center-for-american-rights-files-formal-fcc-complaint/; *News Distortion Complaint Involving CBS Broadcasting Inc., licensee of WCBS, New York, NY*, Order (EB Jan. 22, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-85A1.pdf.

[3] *In the Matter of Skydance Media and Paramount Global*, Petition to Condition Grant by the Center for American Rights (Oct. 16, 2024), https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/document/121677322011/1; Ted Johnson, *Incoming FCC Chairman Brendan Carr Says '60 Minutes' Complaint "Likely To Arise" As Part Of Agency Review of Skydance-Paramount Merger*, DEADLINE (Nov. 19, 2024), https://deadline.com/2024/11/fcc-brendan-carr-60-minutes-cbs-paramount-1236181250/; Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Dec. 18, 2024, 12:43 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1869438445753618684/; *60 Minutes Publishes Transcripts, Video Requested by FCC*, CBS NEWS (Feb. 5, 2025), https://www.cbsnews.com/news/60-minutes-publishes-transcripts-video-requested-by-fcc/.

[4] *NBC Hit with FCC Complaint Over Vice President Harris' SNL Appearance*, CENTER FOR AMERICAN RIGHTS (Nov. 4, 2024), https://www.americanrights.org/cases/nbc-hit-with-fcc-complaint-over-vice-president-harris-snl-appearance/; *Equal Opportunities Complaint Involving NBC Telemundo License, LLC, licensee of WNBC, New York, NY*, Order (MB Jan. 22, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-83A1.pdf.

[5] Letter from Brendan Carr, Chairman, FCC, to Brian Roberts, CEO of Comcast Corporation, (Feb. 11. 2025), https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/Chairman-Carr-Letter%20to-Comcast-02112025.pdf.

[6] Benjamin Mullin & David McCabe, *F.C.C. Chair Orders Investigation into NPR and PBS Sponsorships*, N.Y. TIMES (Jan. 30, 2025), https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/30/business/media/npr-pbs-fcc-investigation.html (quoting Letter from Brendan Carr, Chairman, FCC, to Katherine Maher, President and CEO of National Public Radio, and Paula A. Kerger, President and CEO of PBS (Jan. 29, 2025), https://static01.nyt.com/newsgraphics/documenttools/340343f285781674/6da3eb69-full.pdf).

NPR, PBS, and their affiliates.[7]

- **KCBS Radio (Audacy),** alleging that a radio news broadcast that described an immigration raid constituted a violation of the broadcaster's public interest obligations.[8]

- **Verizon,** requesting the Chairman and CEO of Verizon "reach out" to FCC staff familiar with the review of the Verizon-Frontier merger over concerns about the company's promotion of diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives and past trainings.[9]

Each of these eight actions single out media broadcasters that faced the wrath of President Trump during his Presidential campaign, including actual litigation or outright threats of investigations in retaliation for perceived negative coverage.[10] This exclusive targeting to the apparent benefit of the President is further reflected in the fact that other media broadcasters, particularly allies of the President, have not faced any similar scrutiny. For example, Chair Carr did not reinstate a news distortion complaint against a Fox TV station (WTXF-TV) that was closed in January alongside the complaints against CBS, NBC, and ABC.[11] Nor has the FCC announced investigations or enforcement actions against broadcasters seen as more favorable to President Trump, even where the same or similar fact patterns exist, including against News Corp, which until recently had a longstanding diversity, equity, and inclusion program.[12]

The Commission's investigations appear predicated on dubious legal theories that deviate from the FCC's public guidance, rules, and past enforcement actions, raising the question of whether the FCC is operating under a new set of standards. By its own past admission, the FCC's authority to act on complaints alleging news distortion is "narrow" because the FCC is "prohibited

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[7] Sean Moran, *FCC's Brendan Carr Advances Investigation into NPR, PBS Running 'Prohibited' Ads*, BREITBART (Mar. 7, 2025), https://www.breitbart.com/politics/2025/03/07/fcc-advances-investigation-into-npr-pbs-running-prohibited-ads/.

[8] Brian Flood, *FCC Chair Says It's 'Really Concerning' That A Soros-Backed Radio Station Exposed Undercover ICE Agents*, NEW YORK POST (Feb. 6, 2025), https://nypost.com/2025/02/06/media/fcc-chair-concerned-that-a-soros-backed-radio-station-exposed-undercover-ice-agents/.

[9] Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Feb. 27, 2025, 3:35 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1895211283089367318/.

[10] *See, e.g.*, Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), TRUTH SOCIAL (Sept. 24, 2023, 7:53 PM), https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/111122815628828712/; Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), Truth Social (Apr. 10, 2024, 3:48 PM), https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/112248653824267212/; Donald J. Trump (@realDonaldTrump), TRUTH SOCIAL (Sept. 14, 2024, 10:51 AM), https://truthsocial.com/@realDonaldTrump/posts/113136466410544933/; Sara Fischer, *Trump's Media Playbook*, AXIOS (Nov. 5, 2024), https://www.axios.com/2024/11/05/trump-media-playbook-regulatory-threat/.

[11] Christopher Cole, *FCC Revisits Complaints Against Major Network Broadcasters*, LAW360 (Jan. 22, 2025), https://www.law360.com/articles/2287681/fcc-revisits-complaints-against-major-network-broadcasters/; *Application of Fox Television Stations, LLC For Renewal of License of WTXF-TV, Philadelphia, PA*, Order (MB Jan.16, 2025), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-25-57A1.pdf.

[12] *Diversity, Equity & Inclusion*, NEWS CORP, https://web.archive.org/web/20250130123209/https://newscorp.com/news-corp-diversity/ (last visited Mar. 12, 2025); *Corporate Diversity Statement*, NEWS CORP, https://newscorp.com/corporate-governance/corporate-diversity-statement/ (last visited Mar. 12, 2025); *ASX Diversity Measurable Objectives and Gender Balance*, NEWS CORP, https://newscorp.com/app/uploads/2024/10/2024-ASX-Diversity.pdf (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

by law from engaging in censorship or infringing on First Amendment rights of the press."[13] According to the FCC, "news distortion" violates FCC policy only when it involves "a significant event" and "it can be proven that [the broadcaster has] deliberately distorted a factual news report."[14] The Commission's recent actions appear to adopt ahistorical interpretations of longstanding legal standards and may be designed to intimidate newsrooms to chill future coverage potentially critical of President Trump. Furthermore, while the FCC's stated policy is that the "existence of an investigation is generally nonpublic until the Commission takes enforcement action,"[15] the Chair has engaged in repeated public grandstanding to publicize and amplify the cited investigations favorable to President Trump on Fox News, on social media, and elsewhere.[16]

Chair Carr's vexatious investigation of opponents of President Trump represents a threat to the First Amendment and inflicts upon newsrooms, affiliate groups, local media, nonprofit organizations, and religious broadcasters an ever-looming risk of retaliatory federal investigations for protected speech. In 2018, when an affiliate group was found to be forcing local news anchors to run editorial, partisan content over the objections of member stations, the FCC rejected news distortion complaints. Then-Chair Pai wrote that he could "hardly think of an action more chilling of free speech than the federal government investigating a broadcast station because of disagreement with its news coverage or promotion of that coverage."[17]

As Mr. Carr argued prior to his ascension to Chair, using FCC authorities, particularly its oversight of licenses, to retaliate over political viewpoints violates the First Amendment.[18] In Mr. Carr's own words, "[a] newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should be beyond the reach of any government official, not targeted by them."[19] Mr. Carr has even called investigations of broadcasters over their content "a chilling transgression of the free speech rights that every media outlet in this country enjoys," and accused Democrats of "sending a

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[13] *Broadcast News Distortion*, FCC, https://www.fcc.gov/broadcast-news-distortion/ (last updated July 18, 2024).

[14] *Id.*

[15] *Enforcement Primer*, FCC, https://www.fcc.gov/general/enforcement-primer (last visited Mar. 12, 2025).

[16] *See, e.g.*, Brian Flood, *FCC Chair Says It's 'Really Concerning' that a Soros-Backed Radio Station Exposed Undercover ICE Agents*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 6, 2025), https://www.foxnews.com/media/fcc-chair-says-its-really-concerning-soros-backed-radio-station-exposed-undercover-ice-agents; Brian Flood, *FCC Launches Probe into NBC News Parent Comcast 'to Root Out Invidious Forms of DEI Discrimination'*, FOX NEWS (Feb. 12, 2025), https://www.foxnews.com/media/fcc-launches-probe-nbc-news-parent-comcast-to-root-out-invidious-forms-dei-discrimination; Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Feb. 12, 2025, 2:02 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1889752017150812321/; Carr, *supra* note 9.

[17] Letters from Ajit V. Pai, Chairman, FCC, to Senators Bernard Sanders, Maria Cantwell, Richard Blumenthal, Ron Wyden, Patty Murray, Jeff Merkley, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Tom Udall, Tammy Baldwin, Cory Booker, & Edward Markey (Apr. 12, 2018), https://transition.fcc.gov/Daily_Releases/Daily_Business/2018/db0423/DOC-350372A1.pdf.

[18] *See, e.g.*, Press Release, Off. Comm'r Brendan Carr, Democrats Pressure FCC To Deny Sale Of Spanish-Language Radio Station In Florida Based On Political Viewpoints (Apr. 19, 2021), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371715A1.pdf; Brendan Carr (@BrendanCarrFCC), X (Apr. 19, 2021, 3:45 PM), https://x.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1384231810167578625/; *In the Matter of Sinclair Broadcast Group*, Statement of Commissioner Brendan Carr (May 22, 2020), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-59A3.pdf.

[19] Press Release, Off. Comm'r Brendan Carr, FCC Commissioner Carr Responds to Democrats' Efforts to Censor Newsrooms (Feb. 22, 2021), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370165A1.pdf.

message that is as clear as it is troubling—these regulated entities will pay a price if the targeted newsrooms do not conform to Democrats' preferred political narratives."[20]

Under the new standard that appears to have been set by Chair Carr, however, every newsroom, affiliate group, and broadcaster across the country faces the possibility of burdensome investigations, fines, and even the revocation of licenses for disfavored speech or a change in political winds — they will pay a price if the targeted newsrooms do not conform to President Trump's preferred political narratives.

For these reasons, the Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations ("PSI" or "the Subcommittee") has opened a preliminary inquiry into the FCC's recent handling of complaints and investigations. Pursuant to Senate Resolution 59 (118th Cong.) and PSI Rule 1, please provide information and records responsive to the following requests by March 26, 2025.

1. Describe the FCC's investigatory process for complaints involving broadcast news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations, including, but not limited to:
    a. Procedures and protocols for:
        i. receiving and evaluating complaints;
        ii. gathering additional information;
        iii. docketing complaints;
        iv. making and issuing determinations; and
        v. seeking enforcement, when applicable.
    b. The parties responsible for administering, reviewing, and approving each step of the FCC's investigatory process.

2. Identify all authorities, including but not limited to statutes, regulations, legal precedents, guidance, and Commission reports and memoranda related to news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations, relied on by the FCC to:
    a. initiate an investigation into allegations;
    b. determine the sufficiency of an investigation into and evidence probative of allegations;
    c. set aside a prior order;
    d. seek public comments on an investigation, including evidence; and
    e. seek enforcement against a broadcaster.

3. Identify all enforcement actions, warnings, briefings, interpretive rules, cases, records, advisories, letters, and any other documents from the Commission related to news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations since January 1, 2005, including the outcome of such actions.

4. Identify all statutes, rules, or guidance related to the public disclosure and handling of complaints, referrals, or investigations by the Commission, including rules and standards

[20] *Id.*

related to the disclosure of investigations or enforcement matters and disclosure of evidence obtained in enforcement actions.

5. Produce copies of all precedents, guidance, memoranda, or other documents referenced in response to requests 1-4, unless readily available to the public.

6. Produce all communications regarding the reopening of the WTXF-TV complaint closed on January 16, 2025, to include any deliberations or decisions that took place regarding its possible reopening.

7. Produce all complaints or investigations referred to, or opened by, the Media and Enforcement Bureaus into news distortion, equal time, underwriting, non-discrimination, and public interest obligations since January 20, 2025.

Please contact Subcommittee staff should you have any questions about responding to these requests. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



Richard Blumenthal
Ranking Member
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

cc: The Honorable Ron Johnson
Chairman
Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

From:	Danielle Thumann
To:	Erin Boone; Benjamin Arden
Subject:	Fw: MB pending matters
Date:	Friday, January 17, 2025 10:16:27 PM
Attachments:	MB Policy Division List of Items for Carr OCH 1 16 25 clean.docx Video Work 1 16 25 (BAKclean).docx MB Industry Analysis Division List of Items for Carr OCH 1.16.25.docx Audio Division List of Items 1 16 25 v2 - clean.docx

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See attached from Rosemary.

Danielle Thumann
Legal Advisor
FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr

From: Rosemary Harold <Rosemary.Harold@fcc.gov>
Sent: Friday, January 17, 2025 4:47 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Subject: MB pending matters

Hi, Danielle – As we discussed, attached are the pending matter lists from the four MB divisions. Happy reading (and don't hesitate to pass along any questions you or others on the Carr team may have).

Rosemary

Rosemary Harold
Acting Media Bureau Chief

***** *Non-Public Information – For Internal Use Only* *****

Kristi Thompson

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt
Sent: Tuesday, December 9, 2025 12:04 PM
To: Danielle Thumann
Subject: FW: Opt-In Opportunity: Home Base Document
Attachments: 12.9.25 Home Base Document 1201p.docx; 12.8.25 Home Base Document 355p.docx

(b) (5)

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 6:56 AM
To: Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Adam Chan <Adam.Chan@fcc.gov>
Cc: Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>; Allison Howell <Allison.Howell@fcc.gov>
Subject: Opt-In Opportunity: Home Base Document

Good morning everyone,

Attached is the Home Base document for the Chairman's upcoming Senate Commerce oversight hearing. This

(b) (5)

I would also like thank everyone for their help thus far in providing and/or thumbs upping the information that is in this document. It is much appreciated.

All best,
Matt

Matthew Mittelstaedt
Director
FCC Office of Legislative Affairs
202-(b) (6) | matthew.mittelstaedt@fcc.gov

From:	Katie Gorscak
To:	Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Adam Chan
Cc:	Adam Jackman; Scott Delacourt; Greg Watson; Will Wiquist
Subject:	FW: Press Prep questions
Date:	Tuesday, March 25, 2025 4:18:15 PM
Attachments:	2025-03 Open Meeting Press Prep_toChairman.docx

My apologies for the omission of the advisors on my initial email. Please see attached. I've slightly reordered the questions from what I initially sent around for review.

Regards,

Katie

From: Katie Gorscak
Sent: Tuesday, March 25, 2025 4:15 PM
To: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Cc: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>; Will Wiquist <Will.Wiquist@fcc.gov>
Subject: Press Prep questions

Good afternoon, Mr. Chairman.

Attached please find press prep questions for Thursday's press conference. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns regarding the attached list.

Regards,

Katie

From: Danielle Thumann
To: Danielle Thumann (b) (6)
Subject: Fw: Priority Hearing Prep Project
Date: Monday, August 31, 2026 8:58:05 PM
Attachments: 119th Congress Senate Commerce Correspondence.docx

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Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Connor Glisson <Connor.Glisson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, August 31, 2026 4:59 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: Priority Hearing Prep Project

Attached is what OLA put together. Let me know if you want this tweaked or formatted differently.

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:25 PM
To: Connor Glisson <Connor.Glisson@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: Priority Hearing Prep Project

THANK YOU! This is awesome and very much appreciated.

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Connor Glisson <Connor.Glisson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:15 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Subject: Fw: Priority Hearing Prep Project

FYI

From: Connor Glisson <Connor.Glisson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, August 27, 2026 1:14 PM

To: OLA Distribution List <OLADistributionList@fcc.gov>
Subject: Priority Hearing Prep Project

Hi All,

We have a hearing prep style project that needs to take priority over what else you are working on. Here is the link to the shared document that everybody can add information to:
119th Congress Senate Commerce Correspondence.docx

First, we need quick hit summaries of all incoming Chairman Letters from members of Senate Commerce received during this Congress (Jan. 1 2025 to present). Here is a link for those letters (https://outlook.office.com/local/path/file://fccnet/fccroot/data/Co-Share/OLA/Chair%20Correspondence). For each letter in your issue area please provide a one paragraph summary of the letter. Please ensure all letters are summarized. Note if we responded to the letter. For example:

- (b) (5) [redacted]

We also need a bulleted list of outreach we have received directly from staff. Please search your inbox for each member of Senate Commerce and provide a brief summary of every inquiry you have been a part of or have in your inbox starting January 1, 2025.

- (b) (5) [redacted]

Finally, we need a bulleted list of outreach considered to be B/O outreach but only if it is on behalf of a group and not one specific constituent for each member of Senate Commerce. For example, outreach on behalf of a school, hospital system, business, etc.

- (b) (5) [redacted]

Let me know if you have any questions. Please aim to have your respective info completed by COB tomorrow, Monday at the latest.

Best,

Connor Glisson

Director, Office of Legislative Affairs
Federal Communications Commission
connor.glisson@fcc.gov | (b) (6)

From:	Callie Coker
To:	Brendan Carr
Cc:	Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Adam Chan; Adam Jackman; Anthony Patrone; Scott Delacourt
Subject:	May Open Meeting Materials
Date:	Wednesday, May 21, 2025 8:33:26 PM
Attachments:	MAY2025OpenMeetingScriptDraft3 items + OCH.docx Bad Labs RO statement.docx FACT act nprm statement .docx Spectrum Abundance Statement .docx BC Statements for Meeting 5.21.25.pdf May 2025 Topper.docx Press QA on Media Issues .docx

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Chairman Carr,

Attached are the May open meeting materials – script, statements, PDF of statements, press prep.

The announcements section begins with the Awards for Advancement in Accessibility, as discussed, followed by 8 agency retirements. Please let me know if you have any edits.

Thanks,

Callie Coker
Legal Advisor
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Callie.Coker@fcc.gov

**** Non-Public Information; For Internal Use Only ****

From:	Sima Nilsson
To:	FCCCIRU
Cc:	MB Sr Staff
Subject:	MB Circulate: CLAS 250077, Paramount Skydance, MO&O
Date:	Wednesday, July 23, 2025 1:55:08 PM
Attachments:	CLAS 250077- Paramount Skydance, MO&O--07.23.pdf CLAS 250077- Cover Memo- Paramount Skydance, MO&O--07.23.pdf CLAS 250077- Paramount Skydance, MO&O--07.23.docx

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Today, the Media Bureau circulated the attached item. For additional information, please see the cover memo.

Best,
Sima Nilsson

Sima Nilsson
Legal Advisor
Media Bureau
(202) 418-2708

Kristi Thompson

From: Erin Boone
Sent: Tuesday, January 21, 2025 10:24 AM
To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson; Danielle Thumann; Arpan Sura; Benjamin Arden
Subject: Orders rescinding network complaint investigations
Attachments: Draft_WCBS_1.113_Order to BC 1.21.25.docx; Draft_WPVI_1.113_Order to BC 1.21.25.docx; Draft WNBC 1.113 Order to BC 1.21.25.docx

Chairman –
Attached for your review are the three draft Orders (2 Enforcement, 1 Media) that rescind the Bureau-level Orders rejecting the network news complaints.

Thanks,

Erin Boone
erin.boone@fcc.gov

From:	Katie Gorscak
To:	Greg Watson; Scott Delacourt; Erin Boone; Danielle Thumann; Arpan Sura; Adam Candeub; Matthew Mittelstaedt
Cc:	Adam Jackman; Katie McAuliffe; Will Wiquist
Subject:	Press prep questions document
Date:	Tuesday, July 22, 2025 12:01:33 PM
Attachments:	2025-07 Open Meeting Press Prep_draft.docx

Good morning:

Attached please find our draft press prep questions for the Chairman's Thursday press conference. If you could please send me any edits or additions by 4 p.m. today, I'd greatly appreciate it. I'll plan to send this to the Chairman by COB today.

Regards,

Katie Gorscak
Acting Director, FCC Office of Media Relations

From:	Katie Gorscak
To:	Greg Watson; Adam Jackman; Scott Delacourt; Erin Boone; Danielle Thumann; Arpan Sura; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Stephanie Chambless; Adam Chan
Subject:	Press prep questions for June 2025 Open Meeting
Date:	Tuesday, June 24, 2025 12:35:23 PM
Attachments:	2025-06 Open Meeting Press Prep_toOCH.docx

Good afternoon:

Attached please find a list of questions that we may want to anticipate the Chairman being asked during Thursday's press conference. If you have anything additional that you'd like to include, please add to this document by 4 p.m. today (or feel free to email me directly). I will then plan to share this with the Chairman by COB.

Regards,

Katie

From:	Katie Gorscak
To:	Greg Watson; Scott Delacourt; Erin Boone; Danielle Thumann; Arpan Sura; Callie Coker; Anthony Patrone; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Adam Chan; Adam Jackman
Cc:	Will Wiquist
Subject:	Press prep questions for review
Date:	Tuesday, August 5, 2025 11:30:11 AM
Attachments:	2025-08 Open Meeting Press Prep_draft_to OCH advisors.docx

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Good morning:

Attached please find a document with press prep questions for the August Open Meeting press conference. Please let me know if you have any additions by 4 p.m. today. At that point, I'll clean up and send to the Chairman in advance of tomorrow's press prep session. @Greg: let me know if you need any assistance in getting that set up.

Regards,

Katie

From:	Katie Gorscak
To:	Greg Watson; Scott Delacourt; Arpan Sura; Adam Jackman; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Adam Chan; Stephanie Chambless; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Callie Coker; Anthony Patrone
Subject:	Press prep questions
Date:	Tuesday, May 20, 2025 1:01:44 PM
Attachments:	2025-05 Open Meeting Press Prep.docx

Good afternoon:

I plan to send the following anticipated press questions to the Chairman later this afternoon as they will help drive our Open Meeting press prep discussion tomorrow. Please let me know if you have any concerns, or want to add anything additional, by 4 p.m. today.

Regards,

Katie

From: Erin Boone
To: Eduard Bartholme; Danielle Thumann
Cc: James Brown; Kristi Thornton
Subject: RE: CAR News Distortion Complaint
Date: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:41:45 AM
Attachments: image001.png

Yep, I received it directly. Thanks for the flag Ed!

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, April 22, 2025 9:26 AM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>
Cc: James Brown <James.Brown@fcc.gov>; Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Subject: CAR News Distortion Complaint

Danielle and Erin,

CICD received an informal complaint submission from the Center for American Rights (CAR). This was reported in this morning's CommDaily. With OCH approval, CICD will assign this complaint to EB, similar to the previous complaint filed by CAR related to 60 minutes.

A PDF of the complaint ticket and the PDF attachment they provided is a new folder in the OCH folder CICD has previously shared with you:

CAR News Distortion

Regards
Ed

Kristi Thompson

From: Danielle Thumann
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Eduard Bartholme; Kristi Thornton
Subject: Re: CBS Complaints

Thanks, Ed and Kristi! This language is good by me.

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: CBS Complaints

Danielle,

With apologies, the draft response language got caught in my inbox. With your approval, the team will start to respond with this language to relevant complaints.

Regards
Ed

Draft Response:

Thank you for contacting the FCC with a complaint or concern regarding news programming. The FCC recently opened a proceeding, investigating "'news distortion' in the airing of a '60 Minutes' interview with then Vice President Kamala Harris." You can read the notice about the proceeding here.

To have your concerns become part of the record for this proceeding you will need to resubmit them in the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System following the steps outlined below.

1. Go to the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System's page for submitting an Express Comment: https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express
2. In the first box, "*Proceeding(s): Specify the FCC proceeding(s) to which your filing refers," enter the number specific to this proceeding: 25-73.
3. When a box with the following text appears, click on it to auto-fill the "Proceedings" box: "News Distortion Complaint Involving CBS Broadcasting Inc., Licensee of WCBS, New York, NY"
4. Complete all required boxes, type your comment in the box labeled "Brief Comments," and then review and submit your comment to the FCC.
5. The deadline to file comments is March 24, 2025.

For more on filing a comment with the FCC, you can visit https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/how-comment

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From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 2:14 PM
To: Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Cc: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Subject: CBS Complaints

Hi Kristi, I have confirmed with the Chairman and Erin that we would like for complainants to be encouraged to resubmit their news distortion complaints in the relevant ECFS proceeding. Can you please work on some draft language to send to consumers that would advise them on this step (including how to use ECFS)?

Thank you!

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

Kristi Thompson

From: Eduard Bartholme
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Danielle Thumann; Kristi Thornton
Subject: Re: CBS Complaints

Danielle,

With apologies, the draft response language got caught in my inbox. With your approval, the team will start to respond with this language to relevant complaints.

Regards
Ed

Draft Response:

Thank you for contacting the FCC with a complaint or concern regarding news programming. The FCC recently opened a proceeding, investigating "'news distortion' in the airing of a '60 Minutes' interview with then Vice President Kamala Harris." You can read the notice about the proceeding here.

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1. Go to the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System's page for submitting an Express Comment: https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express
2. In the first box, "*Proceeding(s): Specify the FCC proceeding(s) to which your filing refers," enter the number specific to this proceeding: 25-73.
3. When a box with the following text appears, click on it to auto-fill the "Proceedings" box: "News Distortion Complaint Involving CBS Broadcasting Inc., Licensee of WCBS, New York, NY"
4. Complete all required boxes, type your comment in the box labeled "Brief Comments," and then review and submit your comment to the FCC.
5. The deadline to file comments is March 24, 2025.

For more on filing a comment with the FCC, you can visit https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/how-comment

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From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 2:14 PM
To: Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Cc: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Subject: CBS Complaints

Hi Kristi, I have confirmed with the Chairman and Erin that we would like for complainants to be encouraged to resubmit their news distortion complaints in the relevant ECFS proceeding. Can you please work on some draft language to send to consumers that would advise them on this step (including how to use ECFS)?

Thank you!

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Danielle Thumann
To: Kristi Thornton
Cc: Eduard Bartholme
Subject: Re: CBS Complaints
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 2:24:40 PM

Sounds good, thank you—this does not have to be a rush today. Over the few days, or even week, would be fine from my perspective, especially since the comment period is not going to open until March.

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 2:19 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Cc: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: CBS Complaints

Thank you for the update, and I will be happy to do that.

I spoke with James after our meeting this morning and told him this may be coming. He said that, because each complaint is different, they will need to be responded to individually. (As opposed to, say, selecting a category of tickets and responding with one standard email response.) That isn't a problem—it just means that the language I will provide for your review may be only part of the response that goes to the consumer.

But I'll get something to you shortly.

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, February 10, 2025 2:15 PM
To: Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Cc: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Subject: CBS Complaints

Hi Kristi, I have confirmed with the Chairman and Erin that we would like for complainants to be encouraged to resubmit their news distortion complaints in the relevant ECFS proceeding. Can you please work on some draft language to send to consumers that would advise them on this step (including how to use ECFS)?

Thank you!

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Kristi Thornton
To: Danielle Thumann; Eduard Bartholme
Subject: RE: CBS Complaints
Date: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:37:50 PM

Great! Thanks, Danielle. I'll forward it to James and Dalton so they can begin to use it.

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 3:32 PM
To: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>; Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: CBS Complaints

Thanks, Ed and Kristi! This language is good by me.

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, February 12, 2025 2:55 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: CBS Complaints

Danielle,

With apologies, the draft response language got caught in my inbox. With your approval, the team will start to respond with this language to relevant complaints.

Regards
Ed

Draft Response:

Thank you for contacting the FCC with a complaint or concern regarding news programming. The FCC recently opened a proceeding, investigating "'news distortion' in the airing of a '60 Minutes' interview with then Vice President Kamala Harris." You can read the notice about the proceeding here.

To have your concerns become part of the record for this proceeding you will need to resubmit them in the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System following the steps outlined below.

1. Go to the FCC's Electronic Comment Filing System's page for submitting an Express Comment: https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/filings/express
2. In the first box, "*Proceeding(s): Specify the FCC proceeding(s) to which your filing refers," enter the number specific to this proceeding: 25-73.
3. When a box with the following text appears, click on it to auto-fill the "Proceedings" box: "News Distortion Complaint Involving CBS Broadcasting Inc., Licensee of WCBS, New York, NY"
4. Complete all required boxes, type your comment in the box labeled "Brief Comments," and then review and submit your comment to the FCC.
5. The deadline to file comments is March 24, 2025.

For more on filing a comment with the FCC, you can visit https://www.fcc.gov/consumers/guides/how-comment

---

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Date: Monday, February 10, 2025 at 2:14 PM
To: Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Cc: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Subject: CBS Complaints

Hi Kristi, I have confirmed with the Chairman and Erin that we would like for complainants to be encouraged to resubmit their news distortion complaints in the relevant ECFS proceeding. Can you please work on some draft language to send to consumers that would advise them on this step (including how to use ECFS)?

Thank you!

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Erin Boone
To: Kristi Thornton; Danielle Thumann; Anthony Patrone; Callie Coker
Cc: Eduard Bartholme
Subject: RE: Compliant from Center for American Rights re: Jimmy Kimmel
Date: Friday, September 5, 2025 1:41:30 PM
Attachments: image001.png

Thanks Kristi!

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Kristi Thornton <Kristi.Thornton@fcc.gov>
Sent: Friday, September 5, 2025 1:01 PM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Cc: Eduard Bartholme <Eduard.Bartholme@fcc.gov>
Subject: Compliant from Center for American Rights re: Jimmy Kimmel

CICD has received the complaint and attached documents from CAR. You can find the materials here: CAR Kimmel

If you need anything else from us on this, please let me know.

Kristi

From: Danielle Thumann
To: Erin Boone
Subject: Re: Draft DEI Letter
Date: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 9:23:35 PM
Attachments: Draft DEI letter Paramount (redline).docx

Hi there! Please see the attached redline. (b) (5) [redacted]

Danielle

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>
Sent: Tuesday, July 15, 2025 10:48 AM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Subject: Draft DEI Letter

Hi Danielle,
BC asked me to ask you to take a peek at the draft (b) (5) [redacted] Happy to chat if you have questions. I'll be out of pocket from 11 to 12:30 but generally around after that.

Thanks!

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

Kristi Thompson

From: Greg Watson
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 4:05 PM
To: Brendan Carr
Cc: Erin Boone; Danielle Thumann; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Callie Coker; Anthony Patrone; Arpan Sura
Subject: RE: FSGG prep
Attachments: FSGG Homebase Document-EB (002)-GW.docx

+ BC

Attaching a draft topic/homebase document here. As you'll see, there are some comment bubbles we are still running down.

From: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

Tweaks attached. Thanks.

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 10:07 PM
To: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: FSGG prep

Some additional suggestions and comments from me are attached on top of Arpan's.

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 4:45 PM
To: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone

<Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

Here are my suggestions and comments. Thanks.

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

I compiled the information BC asked for on Friday and then some and put in this document. Would appreciate any other additional color folks might have.

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Anthony Patrone
Cc: Callie Coker
Subject: FSGG prep
When: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:30 PM-1:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Advisors should be prepared to discuss potential topics and suggested talkers in response.

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)

Dial in by phone

(b) (6) United States, Vancouver

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: (b) (6)

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

Kristi Thompson

From: Erin Boone
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Danielle Thumann; Arpan Sura; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Greg Watson; Anthony Patrone; Callie Coker
Subject: RE: FSGG prep
Attachments: FSGG Homebase Document-EB.docx

Tweaks attached. Thanks.

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 10:07 PM
To: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: FSGG prep

Some additional suggestions and comments from me are attached on top of Arpan's.

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 4:45 PM
To: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

Here are my suggestions and comments. Thanks.

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

I compiled the information BC asked for on Friday and then some and put in this document. Would appreciate any other additional color folks might have.

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Anthony Patrone
Cc: Callie Coker
Subject: FSGG prep
When: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:30 PM-1:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Advisors should be prepared to discuss potential topics and suggested talkers in response.

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)

Dial in by phone

(b) (6) United States, Vancouver

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: (b) (6)

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

Kristi Thompson

From: Arpan Sura
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 4:45 PM
To: Matthew Mittelstaedt; Greg Watson; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Anthony Patrone; Callie Coker
Subject: RE: FSGG prep
Attachments: FSGG Homebase Document-AS.docx

Here are my suggestions and comments. Thanks.

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

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-----Original Appointment-----
From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Anthony Patrone
Cc: Callie Coker
Subject: FSGG prep
When: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:30 PM-1:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
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Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

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Dial in by phone

(b) (6) United States, Vancouver

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: (b) (6)

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

Kristi Thompson

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Anthony Patrone; Callie Coker
Subject: RE: FSGG prep
Attachments: FSGG Homebase Document.docx

I compiled the information BC asked for on Friday and then some and put in this document. Would appreciate any other additional color folks might have.

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Anthony Patrone
Cc: Callie Coker
Subject: FSGG prep
When: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:30 PM-1:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
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Microsoft Teams Need help?

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Passcode: (b) (6)

Dial in by phone

(b) (6) United States, Vancouver

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: (b) (6)

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

From: Callie Coker
To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson
Cc: Erin Boone; Danielle Thumann; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Anthony Patrone; Arpan Sura
Subject: RE: FSGG prep
Date: Monday, May 19, 2025 5:04:49 PM
Attachments: FSGG Homebase Document-EB (002)-GW+CC.docx

(b) (5)

- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

[redacted]

From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 4:14 PM
To: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>
Cc: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

Can someone put a list together of a few of the larger transactions that were previously done on delegated authority at the bureau level? (b) (5) [redacted]

From: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 4:05 PM
To: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Cc: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

+ BC

Attaching a draft topic/homebase document here. As you'll see, there are some comment bubbles we are still running down.

From: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, May 19, 2025 9:44 AM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

Tweaks attached. Thanks.

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 10:07 PM
To: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: FSGG prep

Some additional suggestions and comments from me are attached on top of Arpan's.

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 4:45 PM
To: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

Here are my suggestions and comments. Thanks.

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Sent: Sunday, May 18, 2025 3:27 PM
To: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: FSGG prep

I compiled the information BC asked for on Friday and then some and put in this document. Would appreciate any other additional color folks might have.

-----Original Appointment-----

From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, May 15, 2025 2:25 PM
To: Brendan Carr; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone; Matthew Mittelstaedt; Anthony Patrone
Cc: Callie Coker
Subject: FSGG prep
When: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:30 PM-1:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Advisors should be prepared to discuss potential topics and suggested talkers in response.

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)

Dial in by phone

(b) (6) United States, Vancouver
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: (b) (6)

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

Kristi Thompson

From: Greg Watson
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 12:22 PM
To: Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Brendan Carr; Scott Delacourt; Erin Boone
Subject: RE: Long-Term Policy Planning Conversation
Attachments: Master Planning 3.21.25.docx

Maybe this one too

From: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>
Sent: Friday, March 21, 2025 11:59 AM
To: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: Long-Term Policy Planning Conversation

Here's the latest document we should plan to work off for this meeting.

From: Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov
When: 12:30 PM - 1:30 PM March 21, 2025
Subject: Long-Term Policy Planning Conversation
Location: 10FL – Exec. Conf. Rm. 10.217 (8 Seats)

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: (b) (6)
Passcode: (b) (6)

Dial in by phone

(b) (6) United States, Vancouver

Find a local number

Phone conference ID: (b) (6)

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

Kristi Thompson

From: Erin Boone
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 7:06 PM
To: Matthew Mittelstaedt; Scott Delacourt; Greg Watson; Arpan Sura; Danielle Thumann; Adam Chan
Cc: Anthony Patrone; Callie Coker; Allison Howell
Subject: RE: Opt-In Opportunity: Home Base Document
Attachments: 12.8.25 Home Base Document ECB edits.docx

Attached are my edits. Thanks.

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 8, 2025 6:56 AM
To: Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Adam Chan <Adam.Chan@fcc.gov>
Cc: Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>; Allison Howell <Allison.Howell@fcc.gov>
Subject: Opt-In Opportunity: Home Base Document

Good morning everyone,

Attached is the Home Base document for the Chairman's upcoming Senate Commerce oversight hearing. This (b) (5) [redacted]

[redacted]

I would also like thank everyone for their help thus far in providing and/or thumbs upping the information that is in this document. It is much appreciated.

All best,
Matt

Matthew Mittelstaedt
Director

FCC Office of Legislative Affairs
202-(b) (6) | matthew.mittelstaedt@fcc.gov

From: Kristi Thompson
To: Danielle Thumann
Subject: RE: Response Requested: FOIA 2025-000799
Date: Friday, August 1, 2025 1:07:38 PM
Attachments: image001.png
image002.png
image003.png
image004.png
image005.png

Thank you!

From: Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>
Sent: Thursday, July 31, 2025 9:22 PM
To: Kristi Thompson <Kristi.Thompson@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Stephanie Chambless <Stephanie.Chambless@fcc.gov>; Adam Chan <Adam.Chan@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>; Rhonda Hill <Rhonda.Hill@fcc.gov>; Dana Howell <Dana.Howell@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>; Carlos Minnix <Carlos.Minnix@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>
Cc: Christopher Santini <Christopher.Santini@fcc.gov>
Subject: Re: Response Requested: FOIA 2025-000799

Hi Kristi, I have no documents.

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Kristi Thompson <Kristi.Thompson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 4:24 PM
To: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Stephanie Chambless <Stephanie.Chambless@fcc.gov>; Adam Chan <Adam.Chan@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>; Rhonda Hill <Rhonda.Hill@fcc.gov>; Dana Howell <Dana.Howell@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>; Carlos Minnix <Carlos.Minnix@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>
Cc: Christopher Santini <Christopher.Santini@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: Response Requested: FOIA 2025-000799

Apologies for the second email: I wanted to add that **if you would like us to conduct a search for responsive records via IT (rather than you performing the search manually), please let me know.**

Many thanks,

Kristi

From: Kristi Thompson <Kristi.Thompson@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, July 30, 2025 4:22 PM
To: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Stephanie Chambless <Stephanie.Chambless@fcc.gov>; Adam Chan <Adam.Chan@fcc.gov>; Callie Coker <Callie.Coker@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>; Rhonda Hill <Rhonda.Hill@fcc.gov>; Dana Howell <Dana.Howell@fcc.gov>; Adam Jackman <Adam.Jackman@fcc.gov>; Carlos Minnix <Carlos.Minnix@fcc.gov>; Matthew Mittelstaedt <Matthew.Mittelstaedt@fcc.gov>; Anthony Patrone <Anthony.Patrone@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>
Cc: Christopher Santini <Christopher.Santini@fcc.gov>
Subject: Response Requested: FOIA 2025-000799

OCH Colleagues,

I am writing to advise you about a FOIA request (attached) that was filed by a New York Times newspaper reporter seeking records that you may possess, and to provide search instructions. Specifically, this FOIA request seeks all emails, calendar entries, or other messages to/from/copying Daniel Suhr of the Center for American Rights.

What To Search. Please conduct a search for the following records. The time period is 12/31/2023—4/30/2025.

1. Any emails to/from Daniel Suhr (including messages that Mr. Suhr was cc'ed or bcc'ed on), via the domain name dsuhr@americanrights.org or any other domain name / email address that Daniel Suhr might have used.

2. Any email or calendar invitation that mentions Suhr or the Center for American Rights, regardless of who sent or received it.

If you DO NOT have responsive documents, please reply stating that you have no documents.

If you DO HAVE responsive documents, please place them in the folder for your name, here: K:\Co-Share\FOIA 2025\2025-000799 (Enrich)\Search Results

I have included detailed instructions for how to craft searches in Outlook in case that would be helpful. If you could complete your search by **August 22, 2025,** we would greatly appreciate it.

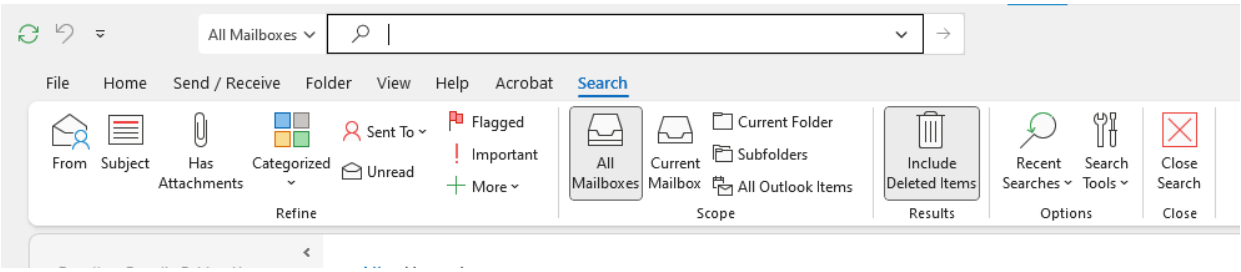
Many thanks,

Kristi Thompson
Attorney Advisor
Office of the General Counsel

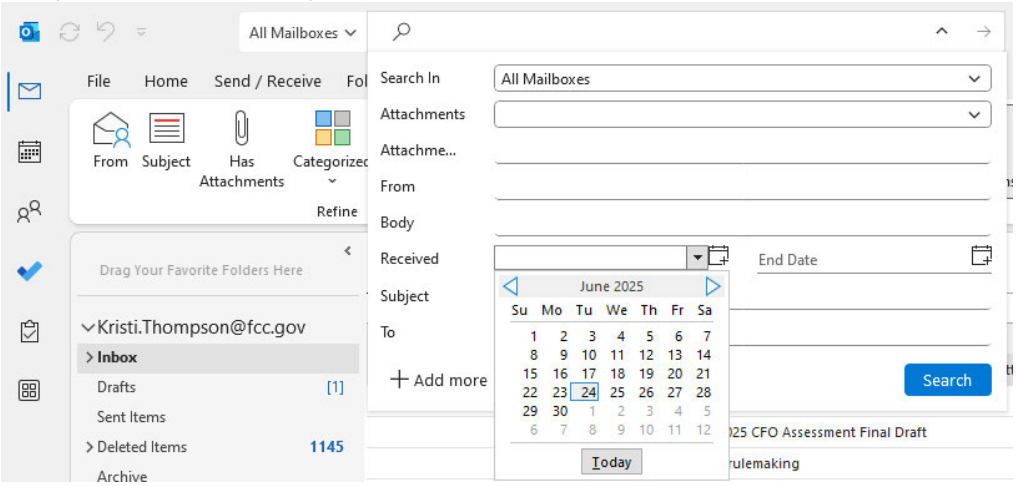
Direct: 202-418-1318

Detailed instructions for how to conduct a search in Outlook:

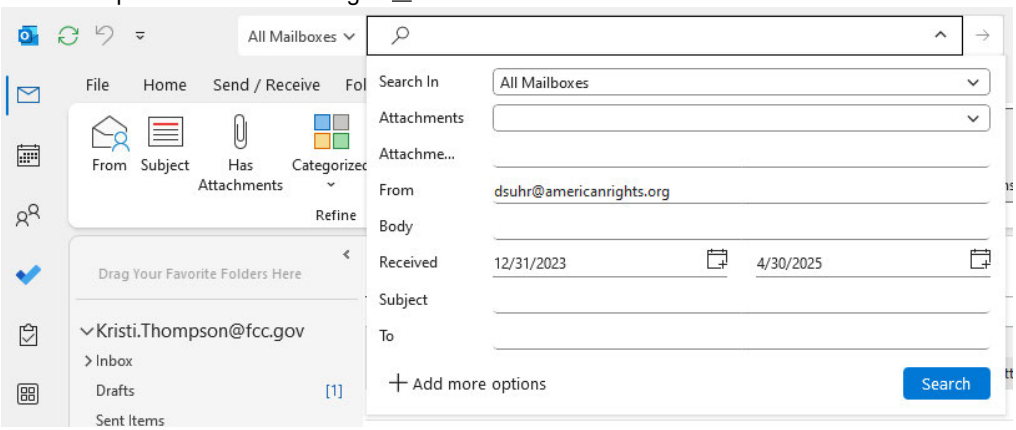
1. In Outlook, click on the top Search bar and select “All Mailboxes.” Made sure that “Search Deleted Items” is also on:



2. Select the dropdown arrow at the right to open up the advanced options. Enter in the search date range (12/31/2023—4/30-2025)

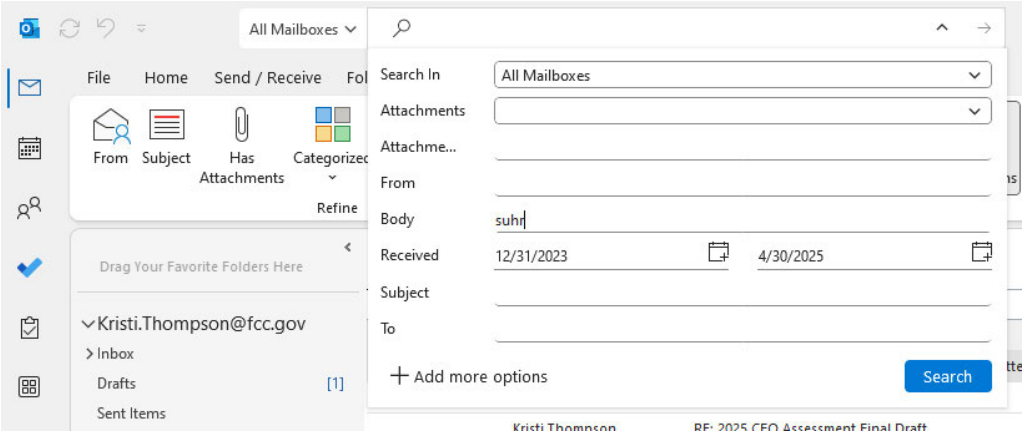


3. Search for dsuhr@americanrights.org in the “from” field to search for messages from the domain. Repeat the same process to find messages to that email address.

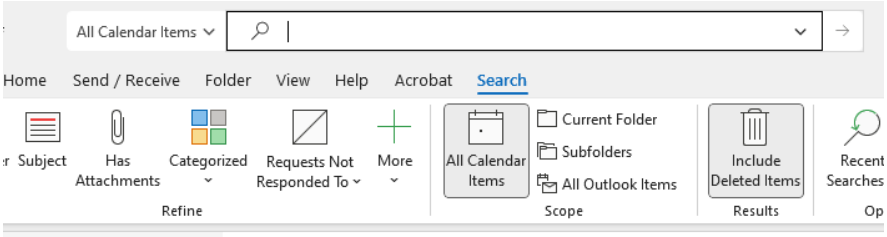


4. Search for “Suhr” in the body section to find any emails that include that word in the body of the text. Repeat

the search for “Center for American Rights.”



5. For Calendar entries, go to the Calendar section and search in “All Calendar Items” for “Suhr” and for “Center for American Rights.” You can also limit the time period via the dropdown menu (same process as Outlook).



From: Danielle Thumann
To: Brendan Carr; Erin Boone; Arpan Sura; Greg Watson; Scott Delacourt
Subject: Re: Transactions
Date: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 9:39:59 PM

Here are the two additional transactions under WCB's review:

T-Mobile/MetroNet (Docket No. 24-244)

- (b) (5)
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]

T-Mobile/Lumos (Docket No. 24-151)

- (b) (5)
- [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
    - [redacted]

- (b) (5)
  -
-
-
  -
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  -
  -
  -
  -
-

Danielle Thumann
Senior Counsel — Wireline, Public Safety, and Consumer Affairs
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
danielle.thumann@fcc.gov

From: Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 5:45 PM
To: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>

Subject: Re: Transactions

(b) (5) [redacted]

From: Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 4:04 PM
To: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>; Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: Transactions

Here is info on Paramount/Skydance

Overview of Transaction: (b) (5) [redacted]

(b) (5)

Erin Boone
Senior Counsel – Media & Enforcement
Office of FCC Chairman Brendan Carr
Acting Chief, Media Bureau
202-418-0736 | erin.boone@fcc.gov

From: Arpan Sura <Arpan.Sura@fcc.gov>
Sent: Wednesday, March 12, 2025 3:33 PM
To: Greg Watson <Gregory.Watson@fcc.gov>; Brendan Carr <Brendan.Carr@fcc.gov>; Danielle Thumann <Danielle.Thumann@fcc.gov>; Erin Boone <Erin.Boone@fcc.gov>; Scott Delacourt <Scott.Delacourt@fcc.gov>
Subject: RE: Transactions

For tomorrow, here is some basic status info on the three major deals.

SES-Intelsat (SB Docket Number 24-267)

- (b) (5)
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
    - [redacted]
    - [redacted]
    - [redacted]
    - [redacted]
    - [redacted]
    - [redacted]
    - [redacted]
    - [redacted]

- (b) (5)
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]

Verizon-Frontier (WC Docket Number 24-445)

- (b) (5)
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]
- [redacted]

T-Mobile-UScellular (GN Docket No. 24-286)

- (b) (5)
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

(b) (5)

- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
- [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]
  - [redacted]

-----Original Appointment-----
From: Arpan Sura
Sent: Monday, March 10, 2025 12:47 PM
To: Arpan Sura; Greg Watson; Brendan Carr; Danielle Thumann; Erin Boone
Cc: Scott Delacourt
Subject: Transactions

When: Thursday, March 13, 2025 3:00 PM-4:00 PM (UTC-05:00) Eastern Time (US & Canada).
Where: Microsoft Teams Meeting

Agenda:
(b) (5) [redacted]

Microsoft Teams Need help?

Join the meeting now

Meeting ID: (b) (6) [redacted]
Passcode: (b) (6) [redacted]

Dial in by phone

(b) (6) [redacted] United States, Vancouver
Find a local number
Phone conference ID: (b) (6) [redacted]

For organizers: Meeting options | Reset dial-in PIN

Kristi Thompson

From: Matthew Mittelstaedt
Sent: Thursday, December 4, 2025 1:22 PM
To: Danielle Thumann
Subject: Senate Commerce Committee Topic List (MM)
Attachments: Senate Commerce Committee Topic List (MM).docx

This is a work in progress and will change many times before it crosses the Chairman's desk