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S. HRG. 118–650

NOMINATION TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

HEARING

BEFORE THE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION UNITED STATES SENATE

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

JUNE 22, 2023

Printed for the use of the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation



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U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

60–394 PDF WASHINGTON : 2025

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

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NOMINATION TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

THURSDAY, JUNE 22, 2023

U.S. SENATE,
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION,
Washington, DC.

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:01 a.m., in room SR–253, Russell Senate Office Building, Hon. Maria Cantwell, Chairwoman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Cantwell [presiding], Klobuchar, Markey, Peters, Tester, Sinema, Luján, Hickenlooper, Warnock, Welch, Cruz, Thune, Moran, Blackburn, Young, Budd, and Vance.

OPENING STATEMENT OF HON. MARIA CANTWELL, U.S. SENATOR FROM WASHINGTON

The CHAIR. Good morning. The U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation will come to order. We are here today for considering nominations to the FCC. I welcome our nominees and their families.

It is critical that the FCC be equipped with a full Commission so that it can proceed with important work that must be done to promote connectivity and ensure a robust and competitive marketplace.

Today, we will consider four key nominee positions: Anna Gomez, nominee for FCC Commissioner; Geoffrey Starks' renomination for FCC Commissioner; Brendan Carr renominated for FCC Commissioner; and Fara Damelin, nominee for FCC Inspector General. Let me begin with the nomination of Anna Gomez.

Ms. Gomez is one of the most qualified nominees for the FCC Commissioner before our Committee. She has dedicated 25 years of her life to public service, focusing most of her time on telecommunications regulation and policy.

Ms. Gomez formerly served as Counsel for the Committee and Deputy Chief of Staff for the National Economic Council at the White House, and various leadership roles within different bureaus of the FCC, including the International Bureau, which is now the Wireline Competition Bureau, and the Office of William Kennard.

Ms. Gomez served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications at the—and Information at NTIA during the Obama Administration and currently is leading the U.S. preparations for the 2023 World Radio Communication Conference. If confirmed, she will be the first Latina on the Commission in more than 20 years, and her nomination comes at a very critical time in America.

We need more affordable, reliable broadband, making sure that everybody gets to participate in the 21st century economy. When the pandemic hit, the Nation saw overnight how remote learning and working from home for more than 16 million K through 12 students in the United States, literally who had no access, certainly put them at a disadvantage.

In my home state, 20 percent of our students didn't have the connections they needed for remote learning. Households on tribal lands were at disparity. On the Makah reservation, located at the Northwest point of the Olympic Peninsula, 90 percent of the households lacked broadband access.

So, the pandemic really did highlight for us the disparities that parents had, kids struggling to work, do homework from home, and these gaps made it even more important that equitable access to broadband in the United States become a reality. So, I urge my colleagues to expeditiously move forward on Ms. Gomez's nomination so that we can have a full Commission.

We will next consider the renomination of Geoffrey Starks, who has been a leader in the fight against—fight against Internet inequality. Would be easier if my staff just said Internet equality, but that is OK—internet inequality, we want to fight against it. And we consistently want to advocate for consumers and for the preservation of national security.

As a native Kansan, Mr. Starks understands the importance of broadband access in America, and he has championed the Find It, Fix It, and Fund It Initiative, which highlights the need to support small and rural companies, and eliminating security threats to our national communications network.

Next, we will reconsider the nomination of Brendan Carr. Commissioner Carr has nearly 20 years of private and public sector experience related to communications and technology policy.

As Commissioner since 2017, Mr. Carr has been a strong advocate for 5G, and as this push for 5G deployment has supported efforts to expand telecommunications workforce through community college apprentice programs and train tower climbers and construction crews.

So, I very much appreciate that the Committee on CHIPS and Science here did great work on trying to expand the wireless workforce as well. I do have some concerns about your nomination, but we will get to questions and will likely get responses from everybody. I am going to be sending a letter to the FCC, which I will elaborate when we get to Q&A.

Finally, we will discuss the nomination of Fara Damelin to be FCC Inspector General. The FCC Inspector is responsible for leading efforts to detect and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse and violation of law while promoting efficient operations of the agency.

Ms. Damelin, in this role, is expected to ensure that Federal dollars are being used to benefit the American public. You have dedicated 27 years of your career to public service, 9 years with the Inspector General community, so we appreciate that very much. And we look forward to the ability to ask you questions.

And I will now turn to the Ranking Member, Senator, Ranking Member Cruz, for his opening statement.

STATEMENT OF HON. TED CRUZ,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TEXAS

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Madam Chair. Before we get started, I want to take a moment to express my sympathies to those who have lost friends and loved ones in the deadly tornado that touched down last night in Matador, Texas.

This past week, I was up in Perryton, Texas, another small town that saw a deadly tornado and enormous destruction. There are reports that in Matador, at least four people were killed, nine others were injured, and there was damage to about a dozen buildings.

And my team is currently in close coordination with local authorities, assisting with disaster relief and searching for those who may be injured or trapped by debris as that continues, and we are praying for the Matador community following this devastating storm. Turning to the matter at hand in this hearing, I am proud of this committee's serious approach to FCC nominees.

Considering the FCC's power to affect our Nation's democratic discourse, the Senate cannot allow individuals who lack candor, independence, or integrity to serve on the agency. There is too much at stake. At a minimum, nominees must be committed to following the law as written by Congress, to acting transparently, and to treating all parties fairly.

These qualities are especially critical given recent actions of the FCC Chairwoman. Faced with a 2–2 Commission and a lawful transaction that she wanted to kill, she stripped a Commission level—she skipped a Commission level vote on the Standard General-Tegna transaction and instead directed the FCC's media bureau to do her bidding.

And to top it off, there is widespread suspicion that the Chairwoman chose to quash the deal specifically to benefit a longtime Democrat donor. Her actions seriously damaged the FCC's reputation, and they impaired the ability of broadcasters to compete against big tech companies and provide local journalism.

I will be seeking commitments from today's nominees that they will oppose such procedural abuses in the future, abuses that undermine the survival of local broadcasting. Furthermore, I am skeptical of FCC proposals to extend legacy rules to flourishing online video market. It is for Congress to decide whether and how to regulate streaming. The FCC should be deregulating broadcasters so they can better compete.

The FCC exercises tremendous power not only over the media, but also over consumers pocketbooks. Through the Universal Service Fund, the agency has imposed burdensome taxes on American consumers to fund inefficient, ever expanding programs. Nominees should be good stewards of funding and stand up for taxpayer interests.

Despite having been repeatedly excoriated by GAO and economists for failing to track where USF money was going, the current FCC leadership failed to learn from past mistakes in setting up the Affordable Connectivity Program. According to the FCC's own Inspector General, the FCC, "did not apply lessons learned," and "failed to implement several important recommendations intended to enhance and safeguard the integrity of the subsidies."

Rather than responding with restraint, the FCC, led by Chairwoman Rosenworcel, has worked to expand FCC spending, including in defiance of clear statutory limits. Take E-Rate. Virtually every school in the country already has high speed broadband.

So, Chairwoman Rosenworcel has sought to push E-Rate subsidies beyond schools and into students homes, even though the Communications Act explicitly confines the legal authority to classrooms.

This illustrates regulators' relentless appetite to ignore statutory language that stands in the way of their desired policy. Unfortunately, such an appetite can come at a huge cost to American taxpayers.

Nowhere has this been more evident than in the FCC Democrats' uncontrollable urge to regulate the Internet as a public utility, *i.e.,* so-called net neutrality, which I have long described as Obamacare for the internet.

The growth of the Internet is perhaps the greatest deregulatory success story of our time, a fact made clear during the pandemic, when U.S. networks thrived in handling unprecedented bandwidth demands and significantly outperformed their heavily regulated European counterparts.

Yet Democrat regulators remain hell-bent on forcing antiquated telephone monopoly rules on the competitive broadband industry. Proponents for Title II have refused to take accountability for the parade of horribles they manufactured in the lead up to the restoring Internet freedom order.

Rather than articulating meaningful reasons for another policy reversal, they claim they simply want regulatory oversight. In other words, the power to micromanage providers' pricing and terms of service, and to collect billions in new USF taxes, all at the expense of investment, innovation, and consumer choice.

It is incumbent on this committee to only confirm nominees who will stand for procedural fairness, who will respect taxpayer dollars, and who will exercise regulatory humility. While the previous FCC nominee did not live up to that standard, I look forward to hearing from today's nominees and to this committee having the opportunity to judge whether they have what it takes to do this important job. Thank you.

The CHAIR. Thank you, Senator Cruz. And before we turn to our witnesses, we will hear from the Chair of the Subcommittee and the Ranking Member, and then an introduction as well of one of the nominees. Yes, Senator Luján. Thank you.

STATEMENT OF HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW MEXICO

Senator LUJÁN. Thank you, Madam Chair, and to our Ranking Member, for calling this important hearing today. It has been far too long since the Federal Communications Commission had a full five members on the Commission—882 days. I hope that sinks in for a bit.

The mission of this agency is critical, especially given the bipartisan support for investment and the requirements over the next few years of what must be accomplished at the FCC. So, I want to thank everyone again. As Chair of the Subcommittee on Commu-

nications, I have had the honor, as has the Committee working with Brendan Carr, to bridge the digital divide and advance innovation.

Now, we certainly don't agree on everything, but Commissioner Carr has engaged in thoughtful policy discussions, and I have some questions as well during the hearing. I am very proud that my office hosted Commissioner Carr in New Mexico, where he visited with Project Echo, a program that is in many of our states, a project established at the University of New Mexico, about how the FCC can better connect rural health providers with specialists across the country.

And I want to say thank you for your willingness to bridge divides, work with the Chair on some critical issues. Thank you for that. Now, previously, the Federal Communications Commission appointed its own Inspector General.

However, the most important characteristic of an Inspector General is independence. And in 2018, Congress required the President to nominate and the Senate to confirm the FCC's IG. Ms. Damelin, welcome to the Senate Commerce Committee.

Although you might be new to the agencies under our committee, you come with decades of experience and independence. I look forward to learning more about your deep experience and the opportunity to bring some much needed oversight to the FCC.

Now, over the past 4 years, Commissioner Starks has embodied the FCC's statutory mandate to, "make available to all the people of the United States without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex, rapid efficient, nationwide, and worldwide communications services with adequate facilities at reasonable charges."

Most recently, Commissioner Starks joined me in New Mexico to visit the Santa Clara Pueblo and discuss tribal sovereignty over spectrum and rights away. He has spearheaded inter-agency coordination with the Department of Housing and Urban Development to ensure access to affordable broadband.

Before former President Trump promoted him to Commissioner, Geoffrey Starks served in the FCC's enforcement bureau, protecting consumers, promoting security, defending universal service programs from waste, fraud, and abuse.

And previously, Mr. Starks worked alongside uniformed police as a Federal prosecutor, guiding Department of Justice's enforcement of civil, criminal, and national security laws. His time on the beat at the DOJ earned him the Attorney General Award for exceptional service, the highest honor for an employee at the Department of Justice.

And finally, Madam Chair, Ranking Member Cruz, and my colleagues on the Committee, I have the honor to introduce Anna Gomez, with decades of experience in public service, handling broadband, telecommunications, and spectrum issues. Anna Gomez is a deeply qualified nominee to serve as an FCC Commissioner.

I was a strong advocate to the President to nominate Anna, and her reception here in the Senate is proof that she is the right choice. Anna's experience at the White House, the State Department, U.S. Senate, NTIA, and the FCC means she will be ready on

day one to advance the FCC's Congressionally mandated responsibility to protect the public interest and advance universal service.

Anna will also bring a much needed voice and perspective to the FCC as the first Latina to serve on the Commission since fellow New Mexican Gloria Tristani over 20 years ago. The Federal Communications Commission has never been more important.

We are at a pivotal moment on broadband deployment and spectrum innovation, and all that comes with increasing broadband access, like accessing news, health care, streaming, staying in touch with grandma and grandpa, protecting free speech and minority voices online.

The mission of the FCC has never been more important to the future of the United States of America. I commend Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz in scheduling this hearing. The agency is critical, and we owe it to our constituents and to future generations of our Nation to have a fully functioning Federal Communications Commission. Thank you, and I yield back.

The CHAIR. Thank you, Senator Luján. We are not going to have an opening statement from the Ranking Member, but we do have an introduction by our colleague, Senator Moran.

STATEMENT OF HON. JERRY MORAN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM KANSAS

Senator MORAN. Chairman Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, thank you. I am pleased to, once again, 4 years later introduce to this committee, Geoffrey Starks to the Commerce Committee.

Since my arrival in the U.S. Senate, I have been either or both an authorizer here in the Commerce committee or an appropriator for the FCC, and I listened to what Senator Cruz was saying, and I would certainly encourage the nominees and current members of the FCC to avoid some days I remember in which it was very autocratic at the leadership and very partisan among the members of the Commission.

I want this committee, but I want the FCC Commission to work in that manner. And I have that expectation of Geoffrey Starks, who has demonstrated that to date. Most—-excuse me, his most important characteristic to me is he is a Kansan and he is the third Kansan to ever serve on the Federal Communications Commission.

I have known them all. And I appreciate the background and representation that has been described of Mr. Starks by my colleagues today. President Trump nominated Commissioner Starks to fill a Democratic position on the FCC in 2018.

He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate in 2019, and he has served as a leading voice in support of many bipartisan telecommunication issues, including broadband access and network security, among the many important issues that the FCC deals with.

I appreciate the other Commissioner—let me say again, I believe, Commissioner Starks to be a dedicated public servant with a deep understanding based upon his experience at the FCC, but also his previous experience, a deep understanding of telecommunications policy.

And I would expect him, I would assume that he would continue to support broadband access, network security, and other policy

goals that are important to me and to Kansans while serving with Kansas values. I also welcome Ms. Damelin and look forward to working with an Inspector General. Mr. Carr, we have had a good working relationship and I appreciate your willingness to serve in this capacity once again.

Ms. Gomez, you and I don't know each other until moments ago. I look forward to getting acquainted with you, and I thank all of you for your interest in public service. Thank you, Madam Chairwoman.

The CHAIR. Thank you, Senator Moran. Thank you for that introduction. We will now turn to the nominees before us this morning.

Mr. Starks, you are leading off. Feel free to introduce any family or friends that are with any of the nominees here this morning.

STATEMENT OF GEOFFREY STARKS, NOMINEE TO BE A COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. STARKS. Thank you. Good morning, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, members of the Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my renomination for Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. I took office as Commissioner in January 2019.

I have had the privilege of working closely with this committee during my tenure. While this setting feels slightly more familiar than it did when I was last the nominee, I am no less humbled by this opportunity, the opportunity to speak with you, than I was 5 years ago. It is truly an honor to appear before you here today.

As many of you know, I am and will forever consider myself to be a Kansan. Senator Moran, thank you for the warm introduction. It is a particular honor to be introduced to this committee by my home State Senator. It is deeply, deeply appreciated.

My parents are with me here today, Dr. Gregory and Janet Starks. They still live in Kansas. They traveled here. Thank you, mom and dad, for your example. For raising me and my brothers the way that you did. I always seek to make you proud. Many thanks to my older brother, Dr. David Starks, and his wife, Dr. Kathy Starks, who are watching from their home in South Dakota.

To my twin brother, Dr. Christopher Starks, and his family in Virginia. My wife Lauren, is here with me today, as well, as is my 7 year old daughter. My son, who is four, is at his very last day of school this morning. And, Senators, the chandeliers might not be safe if he were here with us. But, Lauren, thank you for your love, for your support. I am grateful every day for you. I truly could not do this without you.

And of course, nothing makes me prouder than my two kids. It is a tremendous honor to be renominated by the President. Last I discussed my nomination with this body, I explained my commitment to advancing the core mission of the FCC as set forth in the Communications Act, connecting all Americans to safe and secure networks, protecting consumers, promoting competition and innovation.

As I stand here before you today, the centrality of that mission to our lives is clearer than it has been at any point in the FCC's 89 year history. Because the way I see it, modern networks don't just connect us in the here and now.

They also build a bridge to a better tomorrow, and to the best version of ourselves that we can possibly be individually, collectively, and as a country, employed, healthy, educated, closer to the people we love and admire, innovative, secure—an engine of opportunity fueled up for the next generation.

But that better tomorrow only comes if we faithfully advance the mission that you have given us. It starts by connecting everybody: rural, urban, and tribal, to high quality, affordable broadband that is Internet for all. Places like Gallia County, Ohio, come to mind. They show us the challenge. Show us the promise. Several months after I was sworn in, I visited the Boston Memorial Library and Gallup Police, the county seat in a river town of about 3,000 people.

Many homes there lacked access to high speed networks, but let me tell you, the library was a palace for the people. Early in the morning, folks were lined up by the front door, waiting for the chance to use one of the town's public computers.

Others had retreated to their parking lot in order—in hopes of picking up a Wi-Fi signal from their car. In a town where one in five live below the poverty line, several people I spoke with said that a home broadband connection just wasn't in the cards. And so, it was experiences like this that made me focus much of my attention on the—as a Commissioner on closing the digital divide.

Over the last 5 years, and thanks to the leadership in Congress, we stand on the precipice of achieving that important goal. We have accomplished a great deal together, and with my colleagues, we have worked on a bipartisan basis to establish the affordable connectivity program that is helping over 18.68 million vulnerable households get and stay connected.

There is more work to do. The national broadband map that you directed us to create continues to improve and inform the broadband equity access deployment programming at NTIA to deliver connectivity to Americans everywhere, and it will take coordination across Federal, State, local, and tribal governments to get us across the finish line.

Wireless networks have transformed American life after mobile carriers have spent a record $108 billion at FCC spectrum auctions in the last 3 years. We have seen 5G launch in more than 500 cities by the end of 2022, a whopping 70 percent increase over 2021 and enough to surpass China.

All of this is a promising start, but here, too, we have more work to do. For these technologies to reach their potential, our networks need to keep climbing to capability coverage and choice for consumers. Let me close, there has been unprecedented demand for communications services that have come and more challenging new security vulnerabilities.

Protecting Americans remains the FCC's core mission. I have focused my Commissionership on partnering with Congress on these threats, in particular on insecure equipment in U.S. telecommunication networks for Rip and Replace, as I termed it, Find It, Fix It, Fund It, and with support from Congress, we have developed and now continue to implement that critical program.

We have worked to reconfigure and restore those trust in our networks as well, so that unlawful robocalls decline. If confirmed,

I look forward to continuing to advance the important task that you have given us, working with my colleagues and the talented staff at this agency.

Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement and biographical information of Mr. Starks follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF GEOFFREY STARKS, NOMINEE TO BE A COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Good morning, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and Members of this Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today as you consider my renomination for Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. I took office as a commissioner in January 2019, and I have had the privilege of working closely with this Committee during my tenure. While this setting feels slightly more familiar now than it did when I was last a nominee, I am no less humbled by this opportunity, and by the opportunity to speak with you, than I was five years ago. It is an honor to appear before you today.

As many of you know, I am and will forever consider myself to be a Kansan. My parents, Dr. Gregory and Janet Starks, still live there and traveled to be here with me today. Thank you, Mom and Dad, for your example and for raising me and my two brothers the way that you did. I always want to make you proud. Many thanks to my older brother, Dr. David Starks, and his wife, Dr. Kathy Starks, who are watching from their home in South Dakota; and my twin brother, Dr. Christopher Starks, and his family in Virginia.

My wife, Lauren, is here today as well, as is my seven-year-old daughter. My son, who is four, is at his last day of school this morning. Lauren, thank you for your love and support—I'm grateful for you every single day. Truly, I couldn't do it without you. And nothing makes me prouder than my two kids.

It is a tremendous honor to be renominated by the President. Last I discussed my nomination with you, I explained my commitment to advancing the core mission of the FCC as set forth in the Communications Act. Connecting all Americans to safe and secure networks. Protecting consumers. Promoting competition and innovation. As I stand before you today, the centrality of that mission to our daily lives is clearer than it has been at any point in the FCC's 89-year history. Because the way I see it, modern networks don't just connect us in the here and now. They also build a bridge to a better tomorrow—and to the best version of ourselves we can possibly be individually, collectively, and as a country. Employed. Healthy. Educated. Closer to the people we love and admire. Innovative. Secure. An engine of opportunity fueled up for another generation.

But that better tomorrow only comes if we faithfully advance the mission you gave us. And it starts by connecting everybody—rural, urban, and tribal—to high-quality, affordable broadband. Internet for all. Places like Gallia County, Ohio, show us the challenge and the promise. Several months after I was sworn in, I visited the Bossard Memorial Library in Gallipolis, the county seat and a river town of about 3,000. Many homes there lack access to a high-speed network but let me tell you, that library was a palace for the people. Early in the morning, folks were lined up by the front door waiting for the chance to use one of the town's public computers. Others had retreated to the parking lot in the hopes of picking up a Wi-Fi signal from their car. In a town where nearly 1 in 5 live below the poverty line, several people I spoke with said a home broadband connection just wasn't in the cards.

It was experiences like this that made me focus so much of my attention as a commissioner on closing the digital divide. Over the last five years, and thanks to the leadership of Congress, we stand on the precipice of achieving that important goal. We have accomplished a great deal together. For example, with my colleagues, we have worked on a bipartisan basis to establish the Affordable Connectivity Program that is helping over 18.68 million vulnerable households get and stay connected. But there is more work to do. The National Broadband Map that you directed us to create continues to improve and will inform the Broadband Equity Access and Deployment programming at NTIA to deliver connectivity to Americans everywhere. It will take coordination across federal, state, local and Tribal governments to get across the finish line.

Wireless networks in particular have transformed American life. After mobile carriers spent a record $108.5 billion at FCC spectrum auctions in the last three years alone, we saw 5G launch in more than 500 U.S. cities by the end of 2022—a whopping 70 percent increase over 2021 numbers and enough to surpass the previous world leader, China. All of this is a very promising start, but here, too, we have more work to do. For these technologies to truly reach their potential, our networks need to keep climbing in capability, coverage, and the choice they offer consumers.

With the unprecedented demand for communications services have come new and more challenging security vulnerabilities. Protecting Americans remains core to the FCC's mission. That's why I've also focused my commissionership on partnering with Congress to address these new threats. In my first year in office, I called for a focused effort to identify insecure equipment in U.S. telecommunications networks and rip-and-replace it with trusted sources—"Find It, Fix It, Fund It." With support from Congress, we developed and now continue to implement that critical program. We've also worked to reconfigure and restore trust in our networks so that unlawful robocalls decline in volume and eventually become an historic relic.

If confirmed, I will continue to advance the important tasks you've given us, working with my colleagues and the talented staff at this agency. Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and Members of the Committee, thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I look forward to answering your questions.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Geoffrey Adam Starks.
2. Position to which nominated: Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission.
3. Date of Nomination: May 30, 2023.
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Residence: Information not released to the public.
Office: Federal Communications Commission, 45 L St NE, Washington, D.C. 20554.

5. Date and Place of Birth: March 13, 1980 in Kansas City, Missouri.
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Lauren Thompson Starks, Program Lead for the Good Jobs Challenge, United States Department of Commerce

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

Harvard College, A.B. 2002
Yale Law School, J.D. 2008

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

2019 to present: Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission (1) (2)

2015–2018: Assistant Bureau Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (1) (2)

2013–2015: Senior Counsel, Office of the Deputy Attorney General, United States Department of Justice (2)

2010–2013: Attorney, Williams & Connolly LLP

2008–2009: Law Clerk, Honorable Duane Benton—8th Circuit Court of Appeals

2007: Summer Associate, Jenner & Block LLP

2007: Summer Associate, Williams & Connolly LLP

2007: Research Assistant to Law Professor Steven Duke, Yale Law School

2006: Summer Associate, Wachtell Lipton Rosen & Katz

2004–2005: Legislative Staff, Illinois State Senate

2002–2004: Analyst, Goldman Sachs Investment Banking Division

(1) Position held included responsibilities and content areas related to the position

(2) Position held included significant enterprise-level or segment-level management responsibilities

9. Attach a copy of your resume.

Please find my resume attached.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age. None.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution. None.

12. Please list each membership you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

American Bar Association. Member. 2017 to present.

Federal Communications Bar Association. Member. 2017 to present.

Eighth Circuit Bar Association. Member. 2008 to present.

Harvard Club of Washington D.C. Member of the Schools Committee. 2008 to present.

Yale Law Journal, Board Member. 2007–2008.

Council on Foreign Relations. Member. 2023 to present.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt. No.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities. None.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of $200 or more for the past ten years. None.

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- Attorney General Award for Exceptional Service (highest award for a Department of Justice employee)
- Thomas T. Hoopes Prize (highest award for a senior thesis from Harvard College)
- Kathryn Ann Huggins Prize (prize for best senior thesis from the W.E.B. Du Bois Institute)
- Judge Charles Wyzanski Prize (Lowell House Senior Award for a student pursuing "theoretical and practical issues of justice")
- Goldman Sachs Scholarship for Excellence

17. List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

To the best of my knowledge, please see the list below.

Date	Title	Link
5/25/2023	Starks Kicks Off Your Home, Your Internet w/ Hickenlooper & Cooper	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-kicks-your-ome-your-internet-w-hickenlooper*
5/22/2023	Starks Statement on FCC Nominees	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-fcc-nominees*

Date	Title	Link
5/19/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Further Expands Its Robocall Blocking Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-further-expands-its-robocall-blocking-rules/starks-statement-0*
5/19/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Moves Forward on 12 GHz Proceeding	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-moves-forward-12-ghz-proceeding/starks-statement-0*
5/08/2023	Starks to Join Leader Jeffries at ACP Event	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-join-leader-jeffries-acp-event*
5/1/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $8M in Fines for Rural Broadband Auction Defaults	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-over-8m-fines-rural-broadband-auction-defaults/starks-statement*
4/25/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Periodic Reviews of International Telecom Authorizations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-periodic-reviews-international-telecom-authorizations/starks-statement-0*
4/25/2023	Starks & Carr to Champion Broadband & 5G Workforce at VSU	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-carr-champion-broadband-5g-workforce-vsu*
4/21/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts New Rules for Satellite System Spectrum Sharing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-new-rules-satellite-system-spectrum-sharing/starks-statement-0*
4/21/2023	Starks Statement on Fully Funding 'Rip and Replace'	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-fully-funding-rip-and-replace*
4/20/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Periodic Reviews of International Telecom Authorizations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-periodic-reviews-international-telecom-authorizations/starks-statement*
4/6/2023	China Has Equipment That Can Spy On Us In Our Telecommunications Networks. We Must Remove It Now	*https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3937761-china-has-equipment-that-can-spy-on-us-in-our-telecommunications-networks-we-must-remove-it-now/*
3/24/2023	Commissioner Starks Statement on USF Decision	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-usf-decision*
3/17/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Ensure Reasonable Calling Rates for Incarcerated People	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-acts-ensure-reasonable-calling-rates-incarcerated-people/starks-statement*
3/17/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts Its First Rules Focused on Scam Texting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-its-first-rules-focused-scam-texting-0/starks-statement*
3/17/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Closes Gap in Caller ID Authentication Regime	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-closes-gap-caller-id-authentication-regime-0/starks-statement*
3/17/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Expansion of Audio Description Requirements	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-expansion-audio-description-requirements/starks-statement*
3/17/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Framework to Facilitate Supplemental Coverage From Space	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-framework-facilitate-supplemental-coverage-spsce-0/starks-statement*
3/15/2023	Commissioner Starks Statement on Your Home, Your Internet	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-your-home-your-internet*
3/6/2023	Commissioner Starks Comments on Privacy, Equity, and Civil Rights	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-comments-privacy-equity-and-civil-rights/letter*

Date	Title	Link
2/17/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Encourages Greater Tribal Participation in E-Rate Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-encourages-greater-tribal-participation-e-rate-program-0/starks-statement*
2/17/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Looks to Help Domestic Violence Survivors Access Connectivity	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-looks-help-domestic-violence-survivors-access-connectivity-0/starks-statement*
2/16/2023	Starks and Rep. Horsford To Hold Black History Month Broadband Event	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-and-rep-horsford-hold-black-history-month-broadband-event*
1/27/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Improving Support for Digital Health in Rural America	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-improving-support-digital-health-rural-america-0/starks-statement*
1/27/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Rules to Promote Reliable Access to 988 Lifeline	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rules-promote-reliable-access-988-lifeline-0/starks-statement*
1/4/2023	Starks Statement on Sohn Nomination	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-sohn-nomination*
1/4/2023	Starks Statement: FCC Starts Rulemaking on Licensed Spectrum for Unmanned Aircraft Use	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-starts-rulemaking-licensed-spectrum-unmanned-aircraft-use/starks-statement*
12/23/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Nearly $300M Fine Against Auto Warranty Scam Robocaller	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-nearly-300m-fine-against-auto-warranty-scam-robocaller/starks-statement*
12/22/2022	Commissioner Starks Statement on Passage of Prison Phone Reform	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-passage-prison-phone-reform*
12/22/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Rules for Location-Based Routing for Wireless 911 Calls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rules-location-based-routing-wireless-911-calls/starks-statement*
12/22/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Proposed New IP CTS Compensation Plan	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-proposed-new-ip-cts-compensation-plan/starks-statement*
12/22/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Latest Step to Improve Satellite Application Process	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-latest-step-improve-satellite-application-process/starks-statement*
12/22/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Next Steps to Combat Digital Discrimination	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-next-steps-combat-digital-discrimination-0/starks-statement*
11/29/2022	Starks Statement on the Passing of Congressman McEachin	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-passing-congressman-mceachin*
11/25/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Amends Equipment Authorization Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-amends-equipment-authorization-program/starks-statement*
11/23/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Creates ACP Transparency Data Collection	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-creates-acp-transparency-data-collection/starks-statement*
11/18/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Updates Rules To Improve 911 Reliability	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-updates-rules-improve-911-reliability-0/starks-statement*
11/17/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Requires Broadband Providers To Display Labels to Help Consumers	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-requires-broadband-providers-display-labels-help-consumers/starks-statement*

Date	Title	Link
10/28/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Fill Challenging Gap in STIR/SHAKEN Robocall Defenses	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-fill-challenging-gap-stirshaken-robocall-defenses-0/starks-statement*
10/28/2022	Starks Statement: FCC to Examine 12.7 GHz Band for Next-Gen Wireless	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-examine-127-ghz-band-next-gen-wireless-0/starks-statement*
10/28/2022	Starks Statement: FCC to Further Strengthen Storm-Hardened Puerto Rico & USVI Networks	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-further-strengthen-storm-hardened-puerto-rico-usvi-networks-0/starks-statement*
10/27/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Strengthen the Security of Nation's Alerting Systems	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-strengthen-security-nations-alerting-systems/starks-statement*
10/19/2022	The Future Of Broadcast Television, Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At The University Of Pennsylvania Carey Law School, Center For Technology, Innovation & Competition	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-future-broadcast-television*
9/30/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts New '5-Year Rule' for Deorbiting Satellites	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-new-5-year-rule-deorbiting-satellites-0/starks-statement*
9/30/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Improves the Accessibility and Clarity of Emergency Alerts	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-improves-accessibility-and-clarity-emergency-alerts/starks-statement*
9/30/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Mandates TRS Access for Incarcerated People with Disabilities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-mandates-trs-access-incarcerated-people-disabilities/starks-statement*
9/29/2022	Starks Applauds Bogdan-Martin Election to ITU Secretary General	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-applauds-bogdan-martin-election-itu-secretary-general*
9/26/2022	Commissioner Starks to Travel to ITU's Plenipotentiary Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-travel-itus-plenipotentiary-conference*
9/21/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Fines for Violations of Children's TV Programming Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-proposes-fines-violations-childrens-tv-programming-rules/starks-statement*
8/12/2022	Commissioner Starks Applauds the D.C. Circuit's Decision on 5.9 GHz	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-applauds-dc-circuits-decision-59-ghz*
8/8/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Creates 'Your Home, Your Internet' Pilot Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-creates-your-home-your-internet-pilot-program-0/starks-statement*
8/8/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Establishes Affordable Connectivity Outreach Grant Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-establishes-affordable-connectivity-outreach-grant-program-0/starks-statement*
8/8/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Opens Proceeding On Servicing, Assembly, & Manufacturing In Space	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-proceeding-servicing-assembly-manufacturing-space-0/starks-statement*
7/28/2022	Starks Statement On Introduction Of Net Neutrality Legislation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-introduction-net-neutrality-legislation*

Date	Title	Link
7/22/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $4 Million in Fines Against Auction 904 Defaulters	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-proposes-over-4-million-fines-against-auction-904-defaulters/starks-statement*
7/19/2022	Commissioner Starks Announces Staff Changes	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-staff-changes-2*
7/18/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Begins Proceeding on Supporting Survivors of Domestic Violence	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-begins-proceeding-supporting-survivors-domestic-violence-0/starks-statement*
7/18/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Establishes Enhanced Competition Incentive Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-establishes-enhanced-competition-incentive-program-0/starks-statement*
7/15/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Updated Rules to Eliminate Access Arbitrage	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-updated-rules-eliminate-access-arbitrage-0/starks-statement*
7/14/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $116M Robocall Fine for Toll-Free Traffic Pumping Scheme	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-116m-robocall-fine-toll-free-traffic-pumping-scheme-0/starks-statement*
7/6/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Improve Network Resiliency During Disasters	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-improve-network-resiliency-during-disasters/starks-statement*
6/9/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Examines Location-Based Routing for Wireless 911 Calls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-examines-location-based-routing-wireless-911-calls-0/starks-statement*
6/9/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Input on Offshore Spectrum Needs and Uses	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-input-offshore-spectrum-needs-and-uses-0/starks-statement*
6/8/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Examines Location-Based Routing for Wireless 911 Calls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-examines-location-based-routing-wireless-911-calls/starks-statement*
6/8/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Transparency Rules for Affordable Connectivity Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-transparency-rules-affordable-connectivity-program/starks-statement*
6/8/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Input on Offshore Spectrum Needs and Uses	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-input-offshore-spectrum-needs-and-uses/starks-statement*
5/20/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Stop International Robocall Scams	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-stop-international-robocall-scams/starks-statement*
5/20/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Modernizes and Improves Its Priority Services Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modernizes-and-improves-its-priority-services-rules-0/starks-statement*
5/20/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Modernizes and Improves Its Priority Services Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modernizes-and-improves-its-priority-services-rules-0/starks-statement*
5/20/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Higher Speed Goals for Small Rural Broadband Providers	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-higher-speed-goals-small-rural-broadband-providers-0/starks-statement*
4/27/2022	Commissioner Starks Announces Staff Changes	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-staff-changes-1*

Date	Title	Link
4/21/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Launches Proceeding on Promoting Receiver Performance	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-launches-proceeding-promoting-receiver-performance-0/starks-statement*
4/21/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $660K Fine Against Truphone in Foreign Ownership Case	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-proposes-660k-fine-against-truphone-foreign-ownership-case/starks-statement*
4/21/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Public Wireless Emergency Alerts Performance Reporting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-public-wireless-emergency-alerts-performance-reporting-0/ starks-statement*
4/7/2022	Commissioner Starks Announces Staff Changes	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-staff-changes-0*
3/23/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Revokes Pacific Networks' & ComNet's Telecom Service Authority	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-revokes-pacific-networks-comnets-telecom-service-authority-0/starks-statement*
3/17/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Announces Final Group of Connected Care Pilot Program Projects	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-final-group-connected-care-pilot-program-projects-0/starks-statement*
3/17/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Initiates Inquiry on Preventing Digital Discrimination	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-initiates-inquiry-preventing-digital-discrimination/starks-statement*
2/22/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $45 Million Fine for Apparently Unlawful Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-45-million-fine-apparently-unlawful-robocalls/starks-statement*
2/22/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Further Reforms to Rural Health Care Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-further-reforms-rural-health-care-program-0/ starks-statement*
2/18/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $45 Million Fine Against Robocalling Telemarketer	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-45-million-fine-against-robocalling-telemarketer/starks-statement*
2/18/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Further Reforms to Rural Health Care Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-further-reforms-rural-health-care-program/starks-statement*
2/17/2022	Starks Adds Landrieu as Speaker for Connecting Black Communities Event	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-adds-landrieu-speaker-connecting-black-communities-event*
2/15/2022	Starks Announces Connecting Black Communities Event	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-announces-connecting-black-communities-event*
2/15/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Increase Broadband Competition in Apartment Buildings	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-increase-broadband-competition-apartment-buildings/starks-statement*
2/2/2022	Starks Statement: China Unicom Americas Order on Revocation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/china-unicom-americas-order-revocation/starks-statement*
1/28/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Connecting Tribal Libraries Through the E-Rate Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-connecting-tribal-libraries-through-e-rate-program-0/starks-statement*
1/27/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Empower Broadband Consumers Through Transparency	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-empower-broadband-consumers-through-transparency-0/starks-statement*

Date	Title	Link
1/27/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Connecting Tribal Libraries Through the E-Rate Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-connecting-tribal-libraries-through-e-rate-program/starks-statement*
1/21/2022	Starks Statement: FCC Releases Rules To Implement Affordable Connectivity Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-rules-implement-affordable-connectivity-program/starks-statement*
12/15/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Moves to Facilitate Satellite Broadband Competition	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-moves-facilitate-satellite-broadband-competition-0/starks-statement*
11/19/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Approves Text-to-988 Access to Suicide Prevention Lifeline	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-approves-text-988-access-suicide-prevention-lifeline-0/starks-statement*
11/19/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Enhanced Competition Incentive Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-enhanced-competition-incentive-program-0/starks-statement*
11/15/2021	Commissioner Starks Applauds Bipartisan Investments In Broadband	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-applauds-bipartisan-investments-broadband*
11/2/2021	Starks Statement: China Telecom Americas Order on Revocation and Termination	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/china-telecom-americas-order-revocation-and-termination/starks-statement*
10/27/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Announces 36 Newly Approved Connected Care Pilot Program Projects	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-36-newly-approved-connected-care-pilot-program-projects-0/ starks-statement*
10/26/2021	Starks Statement from Disaster Communications Field Hearing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-disaster-communications-field-hearing*
10/26/2021	Statement Of Commissioner Starks On FCC And NTIA Leadership Changes	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/statement-commissioner-starks-fcc-and-ntia-leadership-changes*
10/1/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Improve Communications Reliability During Disasters	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-improve-communications-reliability-during-disasters-0/starks-statement*
10/1/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Moves to Shield 911 Call Centers from Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-moves-shield-911-call-centers-robocalls-0/starks-statement*
10/1/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Rules to Stop Illegal Robocalls From Entering U.S.	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rules-stop-illegal-robocalls-entering-us/starks-statement*
10/1/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Promoting Public Safety Use of the 4.9 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-promoting-public-safety-use-49-ghz-band-0/starks-statement*
10/1/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Strengthens Security Review of Companies with Foreign Ownership	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-strengthens-security-review-companies-foreign-ownership-0/starks-statement*
10/1/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Supports Broadband for Tribal Libraries Through E-Rate	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-supports-broadband-tribal-libraries-through-e-rate-0/starks-statement*
9/30/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Rules to Prevent SIM Swapping and Port-Out Fraud	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rules-prevent-sim-swapping-and-port-out-fraud/starks-statement*

Date	Title	Link
9/30/2021	Starks Statement: Spectrum Requirements for the Internet of Things Notice of Inquiry	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/spectrum-requirements-internet-things-notice-inquiry/starks-statement*
9/28/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Requests 6 GHz Automated Frequency Coordination Proposals	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-requests-6-ghz-automated-frequency-coordination-proposals/starks-statement*
9/8/2021	Starks Statement on Fifth Broadcast Station Ownership Report	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-fifth-broadcast-station-ownership-report*
8/20/2021	Starks On FCC Request For Comments On UAS Spectrum Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-fcc-request-comments-uas-spectrum-rules*
8/6/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Established Two New Innovation Zones in Boston and Raleigh	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-established-two-new-innovation-zones-boston-and-raleigh-0/starks-statement*
7/26/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Issues Related to EEO Data Collection	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-issues-related-eeo-data-collection/starks-statement*
07/15/2021	Availability, Adoption, and Access: The Three Pillars of Broadband Equity	*https://soba.iamempowered.com/availability-adoption-and-access-three-pillars-broadband-equity*
7/14/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Protect National Security in Communications Supply Chain	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-protect-national-security-communications-supply-chain-0/starks-statement*
7/14/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Enable State-of-the-Art Radar Sensors in 60 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-enable-state-art-radar-sensors-60-ghz-band-0/starks-statement*
7/9/2021	Commissioner Starks On President Biden's Competition Executive Order	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-president-bidens-competition-executive-order*
6/21/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Offers Guidance On Connected Care Pilot Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-offers-guidance-connected-care-pilot-program/starks-statement*
6/17/2021	Starks Statement: Allowing Earlier Equipment Marketing and Importation Opportunities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/allowing-earlier-equipment-marketing-and-importation-opportunities-1/starks-statement*
6/17/2021	Starks Statement: Equipment Authorization and Competitive Bidding Supply Chain NPRM	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/equipment-authorization-and-competitive-bidding-supply-chain-nprm/starks-statement*
6/17/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts Rules for Robocall Reporting Portal for Private Entities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-rules-robocall-reporting-portal-private-entities/starks-statement*
6/17/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Further Strengthens Emergency Alerting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-further-strengthens-emergency-alerting-0/starks-statement*
5/24/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Lowers Interstate and International Prison Phone Rates	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-lowers-interstate-and-international-prison-phone-rates-0/starks-statement*
5/21/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes New STIR/SHAKEN Date for Possible Robocall Facilitators	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-new-stirshaken-date-possible-robocall-facilitators-0/starks-statement*

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5/21/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Relieves Certain Affiliates from Mixed-Support Merger Condition	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-relieves-certain-affiliates-mixed-support-merger-condition-0/starks-statement*
5/21/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment On Compensation Plan For Video Relay Service	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-compensation-plan-video-relay-service-0/starks-statement*
5/11/2021	Starks Statement: FCC to Launch $7.17 Billion Connectivity Fund Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-launch-717-billion-connectivity-fund-program-0/starks-statement*
5/10/2021	Starks Applauds Unanimous Emergency Connectivity Fund Order	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-applauds-unanimous-emergency-connectivity-fund-order*
4/23/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Fines Tele Circuit $4,145,000 for Cramming & Slamming Violations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-fines-tele-circuit-4145000-cramming-slamming-violations-0/starks-statement*
4/23/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Lays the Groundwork for Text-to-988	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-lays-groundwork-text-988-0/starks-statement*
4/23/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Action to Improve 911 Reliability	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-action-improve-911-reliability-0/starks-statement*
4/22/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Enhances Transparency of Foreign Government-Sponsored Programming	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-enhances-transparency-foreign-government-sponsored-programming-0/starks-statement*
4/22/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Make Spectrum Available for Commercial Space Launches	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-make-spectrum-available-commercial-space-launches-0/starks-statement*
4/2/2021	Commissioner Starks on FCC v. Prometheus Supreme Court Decision	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-fcc-v-prometheus-supreme-court-decision*
3/30/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Moves Forward with Round 2 of the COVID-19 Telehealth Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-moves-forward-round-2-covid-19-telehealth-program/starks-statement*
3/19/2021	Starks Statement: Order on Revocation of China Unicom Americas' Sec. 214 Authority	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/order-revocation-china-unicom-americas-sec-214-authority/starks-statement*
3/19/2021	Starks Statement: Order on Revocation/Termination: Pacific Networks/ComNet 214 Authority	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/order-revocation termination-pacific-networkscomnet-214-authority/starks-statement*
3/18/2021	Starks Announces Joint Webinar with NTIA for Women's History Month	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-announces-joint-webinar-ntia-womens-history-month*
3/18/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Opens 100 Megahertz of Mid-Band Spectrum for 5G	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-100-megahertz-mid-band-spectrum-5g-0/starks-statement*
3/18/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Open Radio Access Networks	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-open-radio-access-networks-0/starks-statement*
3/18/2021	Starks Statement: FCC to Share Communications Outage Info with Federal & State Agencies	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-share-communications-outage-info-federal-state-agencies-0/starks-statement*
3/10/2021	Starks Applauds $7 Billion E-Rate Funding in Relief Package	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-applauds-7-billion-e-rate-funding-relief-package*

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03/09/2021	We have to close the digital divide. That means Internet access for everyone	*https://www.cnn.com/2021/03/09/ perspectives/broadband-access-fcc-naacp/index.html*
2/26/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts Report and Order for Emergency Broadband Benefit Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-adopts-report-and-order-emergency-broadband-benefit-program-0/starks-statement*
2/25/2021	Commissioner Starks Applauds Emergency Broadband Benefit Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-applauds-emergency-broadband-benefit-rules*
2/22/2021	Starks Statement: Implementing the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/implementing-secure-and-trusted-communications-networks-act-0/starks-statement*
2/17/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Rules To Address 911 Fee Diversion	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rules-address-911-fee-diversion-0/starks-statement*
2/17/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Modifying Supply Chain Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-modifying-supply-chain-rules/starks-statement*
2/11/2021	Commissioner Starks Announces HBCU Presidents' Roundtable	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-hbcu-presidents-roundtable-0*
2/8/2021	Starks Announces Future of Work and Black-Owned Businesses Panel	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-announces-future-work-and-black-owned-businesses-panel*
1/21/2021	Statement Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks On Leadership Transition	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/statement-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-leadership-transition*
1/19/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Annual Broadband Report Shows Digital Divide Is Rapidly Closing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-annual-broadband-report-shows-digital-divide-rapidly-closing/starks-statement*
1/19/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Modifies DTS Rules to Promote Expanded Use by Broadcasters	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modifies-dts-rules-promote-expanded-use-broadcasters/starks-statement*
1/19/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Next Step to Collect More Precise Broadband Mapping Data	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-next-step-collect-more-precise-broadband-mapping-data/starks-statement*
1/15/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Announces Initial Connected Care Pilot Program Projects	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-initial-connected-care-pilot-program-projects/starks-statement*
1/15/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Maximizing Efficient Use of 12 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-maximizing-efficient-use-12-ghz-band/starks-statement*
1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $2.7M Fine Against Views on Learning, Inc.	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-27m-fine-against-views-learning-inc/starks-statement*
1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $3.3M Fine Against Clarendon Foundation, Inc.	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-33m-fine-against-clarendon-foundation-inc/starks-statement*
1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $14M Fine Against HITN	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-over-14m-fine-against-hitn/starks-statement*

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1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $1M Fine Against National Conference on Citizenship	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-over-1m-fine-against-national-conference-citizenship/starks-statement*
1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $3M Fine Against Rockne Educational TV and TLP	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-over-3m-fine-against-rockne-educational-tv-and-tlp/starks-statement*
1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $5M Fine Against NAU Foundation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-over-5m-fine-against-nau-foundation/starks-statement*
1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $6M Fine Against Shekinah Network	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-over-6m-fine-against-shekinah-network/starks-statement*
1/7/2021	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Over $8M Fine Against NACEPF	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-over-8m-fine-against-nacepf/starks-statement*
1/4/2021	Commissioner Starks on Emergency Broadband Benefit Public Notice	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-emergency-broadband-benefit-public-notice*
12/31/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Releases 2020 Communications Marketplace Report	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-2020-communications-marketplace-report/starks-statement*
12/20/2020	Starks Applauds Broadband Funding in COVID–19 Relief Legislation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-applauds-broadband-funding-covid-19-relief-legislation*
12/17/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Resolves 2.5 GHz Petitions for Reconsideration	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-resolves-25-ghz-petitions-reconsideration/starks-statement*
12/14/2020	Starks Statement: Broadnet Teleservices Declaratory Ruling—Order on Reconsideration	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/broadnet-teleservices-declaratory-ruling-order-reconsideration/starks-statement*
12/14/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Launches Proceeding on Revoking China Telecom's Authorizations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-launches-proceeding-revoking-china-telecoms-authorizations-0/starks-statement*
12/11/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts Rules to Secure Communications Networks and Supply Chain	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-rules-secure-communications-networks-and-supply-chain-0/starks-statement*
12/10/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Rules to Expedite Release of New Devices and Technologies	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rules-expedite-release-new-devices-and-technologies-0/starks-statement*
12/10/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Updates Rules to Encourage Broadcast Internet Innovation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-updates-rules-encourage-broadcast-internet-innovation-0/starks-statement*
12/9/2020	Commissioner Starks On The Confirmation Of Nathan Simington	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-confirmation-nathan-simington*
12/6/2020	Broadband Access Is A Civil Right We Can't Afford To Lose—But Many Can't Afford To Have	*Broadband Access Is A Civil Right We Can't Afford To Lose—But Many Can't Afford To Have—Essence*
12/1/2020	Commissioner Starks on Release of NPRM to Modify FM Booster Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-release-nprm-modify-fm-booster-rules*
12/1/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Enabling FM Booster Geo-Targeting Capabilities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-enabling-fm-booster-geo-targeting-capabilities/ starks-statement*

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11/30/2020	Commissioner Starks On Chairman Pai Departure Announcement	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-chairman-pai-departure-announcement*
11/23/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Decides SNR and Northstar Are Ineligible for Bidding Credits	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-decides-snr-and-northstar-are-ineligible-bidding-credits/starks-statement*
11/10/2020	Commissioner Starks Statement on the Presidential Transition	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-presidential-transition*
11/3/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Streamlines Local Approval of Wireless Structure Modifications	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-streamlines-local-approval-wireless-structure-modifications-0/starks-statement*
10/29/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Establishes a 5G Fund for Rural America	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-establishes-5g-fund-rural-america-0/starks-statement*
10/29/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Responds to Narrow Remand of Restoring Internet Freedom Order	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-responds-narrow-remand-restoring-internet-freedom-order-0/starks-statement*
10/28/2020	Commissioner Starks on Proposal to Modify FM Booster Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-proposal-modify-fm-booster-rules*
10/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Fines Arizona Telemarketer $37.5 Million for Spoofing Violations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-fines-arizona-telemarketer-375-million-spoofing-violations-0/starks-statement*
10/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Increases Unlicensed Wireless Operations in TV White Spaces	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-increases-unlicensed-wireless-operations-tv-white-spaces-0/starks-statement*
10/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Modernizes Unbundling and Resale Requirements	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modernizes-unbundling-and-resale-requirements-0/starks-statement*
10/27/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Responds to Narrow Remand of Restoring Internet Freedom Order	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-responds-narrow-remand-restoring-internet-freedom-order/starks-statement*
10/26/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Require ID of Foreign Government-Sponsored Programming	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-require-id-foreign-government-sponsored-programming/starks-statement*
10/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Expands Access to and Investment in the 4.9 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-expands-access-and-investment-49-ghz-band-0/starks-statement*
10/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Facilitate 5G in the 3.45–3.55 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-facilitate-5g-345-355-ghz-band-0/starks-statement*
10/1/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts New Rules to Combat Spoofed Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-new-rules-combat-spoofed-robocalls-0/starks-statement*
10/1/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Improves Transparency and Timeliness of Foreign Ownership Review	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-improves-transparency-and-timeliness-foreign-ownership-review/starks-statement*
10/1/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Modernizes Cable Service Change Notification Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modernizes-cable-service-change-notification-rules-0/starks-statement*
9/30/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Eliminates Outdated Cable Operator Interest Records Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-eliminates-outdated-cable-operator-interest-records-rules-0/starks-statement*

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9/25/2020	Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Remarks to Black Is Tech Virtual Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-black-tech-conference*
9/15/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Forfeiture Against Eight Television Station Groups	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-forfeiture-against-eight-television-station-groups/starks-statement*
9/14/2020	Commissioner Starks Announces 2020 DOER Honorees	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-2020-doer-honorees*
9/10/2020	Commissioner Starks on Early Career Diversity Initiative	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-early-career-diversity-initiative*
9/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $163.9K Fine Against BarrierFree For Form 477 Filings	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-1639k-fine-against-barrierfree-form-477-filings/starks-statement*
8/19/2020	Starks Statement: Sixteenth Broadband Deployment Report Notice of Inquiry	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/sixteenth-broadband-deployment-report-notice-inquiry/starks-statement*
8/11/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Cancels 2016 NAL Against AT&T	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-cancels-2016-nal-against-att/starks-statement*
8/7/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Eliminates the Duplication Rule for AM and FM Radio Stations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-eliminates-duplication-rule-am-and-fm-radio-stations/starks-statement*
8/7/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Establishes Bidding Procedures for December C-Band Auction	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-establishes-bidding-procedures-december-c-band-auction-0/starks-statement*
8/7/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Reduce Rates and Charges for Inmate Calling Services	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-reduce-rates-and-charges-inmate-calling-services-0/starks-statement*
8/5/2020	Commissioner Starks Seeks Details On Bidstream Consumer Data Use	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-seeks-details-bidstream-consumer-data-use*
8/4/2020	Why Prioritizing Broadband Connectivity For Low-Income Americans During COVID–19 Is A Must	*Why Prioritizing Broadband Connectivity For Low-Income Americans During COVID–19 Is A Must—Blavity News*
7/31/2020	Comm. Starks & Rep. Clarke on Tracking at Protests & Worship Locations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/comm-starks-rep-clarke-tracking-protests-worship-locations*
7/27/2020	Commissioner Starks Statement on NTIA's Section 230 Petition	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-ntias-section-230-petition*
7/17/2020	Starks Statement: Designating 988 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/designating-988-national-suicide-prevention-lifeline-0/starks-statement*
7/17/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Encourages Blocking of Illegal and Unwanted Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-encourages-blocking-illegal-and-unwanted-robocalls-0/starks-statement*
7/17/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Helps First Responders Find 911 Callers in Multi-Story Buildings	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-helps-first-responders-find-911-callers-multi-story-buildings-0/starks-statement*

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7/17/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Improves Broadband Data and Maps to Bridge the Digital Divide	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-improves-broadband-data-and-maps-bridge-digital-divide-0/starks-statement*
7/17/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Simplifies Leased Commercial Access Rate Formula	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-simplifies-leased-commercial-access-rate-formula-0/starks-statement*
7/17/2020	Starks Statement: Implementing the Secure Networks Act	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/implementing-secure-networks-act-0/ starks-statement*
7/8/2020	Commissioner Starks Announces Panel on Black Mental Health	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-panel-black-mental-health*
6/30/2020	Commissioner Starks on Barring Huawei and ZTE from USF	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-barring-huawei-and-zte-usf*
6/16/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Addresses Pending ATSC 3.0 Matters and Petitions	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-addresses-pending-atsc-30-matters-and-petitions/starks-statement*
6/11/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts Procedures for Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-procedures-rural-digital-opportunity-fund-auction-0/ starks-statement*
6/10/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Accelerate Deployment of 5G Wireless Infrastructure	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-accelerate-deployment-5g-wireless-infrastructure-0/starks-statement*
6/10/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Record $225 Million Fine for 1 Billion Spoofed Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-proposes-record-225-million-fine-1-billion-spoofed-robocalls-0/starks-statement*
6/8/2020	Starks Announces Digital Opportunity Equity Recognition (DOER) Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-announces-digital-opportunity-equity-recognition-doer-program*
6/2/2020	Commissioner Starks Statement On Nationwide Protests and Social Change	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-nationwide-protests-and-social-change*
5/28/2020	Statement By Commissioner Starks On Section 230 Executive Order	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/statement-commissioner-starks-section-230-executive-order*
5/22/2020	Starks Statement: Sinclair Pays $48 Million and Settles All Pending Investigations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/sinclair-pays-48-million-and-settles-all-pending-investigations/starks-statement*
5/14/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Enables Broadband Deployment in the 900 MHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-enables-broadband-deployment-900-mhz-band-0/starks-statement*
5/5/2020	Comm. Starks & Rep. Brenda Lawrence Announce Connecting Michigan Event	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/comm-starks-rep-brenda-lawrence-announce-connecting-michigan-event*
4/30/2020	Commissioner Starks Announces HBCU Presidents' Roundtable	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-hbcu-presidents-roundtable*
4/28/2020	Starks on Congressional Call for Interagency Lifeline Coordination	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-congressional-call-interagency-lifeline-coordination*
4/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Action to Protect American Consumers from One-Ring Scams	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-action-protect-american-consumers-one-ring-scams-0/starks-statement*

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4/24/2020	Starks on Possible Revocation of Chinese Carriers' Operating Authority	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-possible-revocation-chinese-carriers-operating-authority*
4/24/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Opens 6 GHz Band to Wi-Fi and Other Unlicensed Uses	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-6-ghz-band-wi-fi-and-other-unlicensed-uses-0/starks-statement*
4/24/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes the 5G Fund for Rural America	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-5g-fund-rural-america-0/starks-statement*
4/24/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Updates Orbital Debris Mitigation Rules for the New Space Age	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-updates-orbital-debris-mitigation-rules-new-space-age-0/starks-statement*
4/24/2020	Starks Statement: New FCC Report Shows Digital Divide Continuing to Close	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/new-fcc-report-shows-digital-divide-continuing-close-0/starks-statement*
4/13/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Affirms Decision to Make Lifeline Violations Public	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-affirms-decision-make-lifeline-violations-public/starks-statement*
4/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Fights COVID–19 with $200M; Adopts Long-Term Connected Care Study	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-fights-covid-19–200m-adopts-long-term-connected-care-study/starks-statement*
4/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $6M Fine Against TracFone in Lifeline Case	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-6m-fine-against-tracfone-lifeline-case/starks-statement*
4/1/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Program Carriage Dispute Resolution Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-program-carriage-dispute-resolution-rules-0/starks-statement*
4/1/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Amend DTS Rules to Facilitate Next Generation TV	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-amend-dts-rules-facilitate-next-generation-tv-0/starks-statement*
3/31/2020	Commissioner Starks Statement on March Open Meeting Teleconference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-march-open-meeting-teleconference*
3/27/2020	Commissioner Starks Statement on Congress's Passage of the CARES Act	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-congresss-passage-cares-act*
3/25/2020	Comm'r Starks On Extension Of The Net Neutrality Comment Deadline	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commr-starks-extension-net-neutrality-comment-deadline*
3/21/2020	Starks Statement: Mandating STIR/SHAKEN to Combat Spoofed Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/mandating-stirshaken-combat-spoofed-robocalls-0/starks-statement*
3/20/2020	Commissioner Starks On State And Local Stay At Home Orders	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-state-and-local-stay-home-orders*
3/19/2020	To Fight Coronavirus, Millions More Americans Need Internet Access	*To Fight Coronavirus, Millions More Americans Need Internet Access—The New York Times*
3/13/2020	Starks Statement On Broadband And Telephone Companies' Pledge	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-broadband-and-telephone-companies-pledge*

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3/12/2020	Commissioner Starks Statement on the FCC's Response to COVID–19	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-fccs-response-covid-19*
3/11/2020	Commissioner Starks and FTC Comm. Slaughter Postpone Field Hearing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-and-ftc-comm-slaughter-postpone-field-hearing*
3/3/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Expands Flexible Use of the C-band for 5G	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-expands-flexible-use-c-band-5g-0/starks-statement*
3/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Establishes Procedures for 3.5 GHz Band Auction	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-establishes-procedures-35-ghz-band-auction-0/starks-statement*
3/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Promoting Public Safety Through Fed-State Info Sharing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-promoting-public-safety-through-fed-state-info-sharing-0/starks-statement*
3/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction Procedures	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-rural-digital-opportunity-fund-auction-procedures-0/starks-statement*
3/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Updating White Spaces Rules to Expand Rural Connectivity	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-updating-white-spaces-rules-expand-rural-connectivity-0/starks-statement*
3/2/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Reviewing Recordkeeping Rules on Cable Operators	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-reviewing-recordkeeping-rules-cable-operators-0/starks-statement*
2/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Expands Flexible Use of the C-band for 5G	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-expands-flexible-use-c-band-5g/starks-statement*
2/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $12.2M Fine against Sprint in Location Information Case	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-122m-fine-against-sprint-location-information-case/ starks-statement*
2/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $48.3M Fine against Verizon in Location Information Case	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-483m-fine-against-verizon-location-information-case/ starks-statement*
2/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $57.2M Fine against AT&T in Location Information Case	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-572m-fine-against-att-location-information-case/starks-statement*
2/28/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $91.6M Fine against T-Mobile in Location Information Case	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-916m-fine-against-t-mobile-location-information-case/starks-statement*
2/27/2020	Starks and FTC Comm. Slaughter Announce 5G & Privacy Field Hearing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-and-ftc-comm-slaughter-announce-5g-privacy-field-hearing*
2/26/2020	Starks Visits Puerto Rico To Learn About Network Resiliency Efforts	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-visits-puerto-rico-learn-about-network-resiliency-efforts*
2/20/2020	Commissioner Starks Announces Field Hearing In San Juan, Puerto Rico	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-field-hearing-san-juan-puerto-rico-0*
2/20/2020	Highlights from Commissioner Starks' Southern Tour	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/highlights-commissioner-starks-southern-tour*
2/14/2020	Comm. Starks Statement on Fourth Broadcast Station Ownership Report	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/comm-starks-statement-fourth-broadcast-station-ownership-report*
2/13/2020	Commissioner Starks Announces Field Hearing In San Juan, Puerto Rico	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-field-hearing-san-juan-puerto-rico*

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2/11/2020	Commissioner Starks on Court Decision on T-Mobile/Sprint Merger	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-court-decision-t-mobilesprint-merger*
2/10/2020	Commissioner Starks Announces Agenda for Future of Work Roundtable	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-agenda-future-work-roundtable*
2/7/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Launches $20 Billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-launches-20-billion-rural-digital-opportunity-fund-0/starks-statement*
2/5/2020	Commissioner Starks Statement on Tele-Quality Settlement	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-telequality-settlement*
1/31/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Permits At-Home Call Handling for Video Relay Service	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-permits-home-call-handling-video-relay-service-0/starks-statement*
1/31/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Nearly $13 Million Fine for Illegal Spoofed Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-nearly-13-million-fine-illegal-spoofed-robocalls-0/starks-statement*
1/30/2020	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes New Hearing Aid-Compatible Handset Technical Standards	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-new-hearing-aid-compatible-handset-technical-standards-0/starks-statement*
1/16/2020	Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Future Of Work Congressional Caucus Launch Remarks	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-future-work-congressional-caucus-launch*
1/7/2020	Commissioner Starks Announces New Legal Advisor	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-new-legal-advisor-0*
12/23/2019	Starks Statement: In the Matter of William L. Zawila, FM Station KNGS, Coalinga, CA et a	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/matter-william-l-zawila-fm-station-kngs-coalinga-ca-et/starks-statement*
12/17/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks to Promote Innovation in the 5.9 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-promote-innovation-59-ghz-band-0/starks-statement*
12/17/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Clarifies VoIP Symmetry Rule	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-clarifies-voip-symmetry-rule-0/starks-statement*
12/16/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Considers Facilitating Shared Use in the 3.1-3.55 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-considers-facilitating-shared-use-31-355-ghz-band-0/starks-statement*
12/16/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $151,005 Pirate Radio Fine on Acerome Jean Charles	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-151005-pirate-radio-fine-acerome-jean-charles-0/starks-statement*
12/16/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $453,015 Fine on Pirate Radio Operator Gerlens Cesar	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-453015-fine-pirate-radio-operator-gerlens-cesar/starks-statement*
12/16/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes 988 for Suicide Prevention & Mental Health Hotline	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-988-suicide-prevention-mental-health-hotline-0/starks-statement*
12/13/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Fine Against Campaign Consultant for Spoofed Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-fine-against-campaign-consultant-spoofed-robocalls/starks-statement*
12/12/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes to Update Cable Service Change Notifications	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-update-cable-service-change-notifications-0/starks-statement*

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12/10/2019	Statement of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at the Center for American and International Law	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-center-american-and-international-law*
12/3/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Speed the Deployment of Wi-Fi in Schools and Libraries	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-acts-speed-deployment-wi-fi-schools-and-libraries/ starks-statement*
11/27/2019	Commissioner Starks Statement on the Retirement of Julie Knapp	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-retirement-julie-knapp*
11/26/2019	Starks Statement: Protecting National Security Through FCC Programs	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/protecting-national-security-through-fcc-programs-0/ starks-statement*
11/25/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Duplication of Radio Programming Rule	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-duplication-radio-programming-rule-0/ starks-statement*
11/25/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Helps First Responders Quickly Locate Wireless 911 Callers	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-helps-first-responders-quickly-locate-wireless-911-callers-0/ starks-statement*
11/25/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Eliminating Outdated Unbundling Requirements	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-eliminating-outdated-unbundling-requirements-0/ starks-statement*
11/25/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes New Rules for Removing Bad Actors from FCC Programs	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-new-rules-removing-bad-actors-fcc-programs-0/ starks-statement*
11/22/2019	Starks Statement, FCC Bars Subsidies for Equipment Posing National Security Threats	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-bars-subsidies-equipment-posing-national-security-threats/ starks-statement*
11/21/2019	Commissioner Starks Report of the Find It, Fix It, Fund It Workshop	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-report-find-it-fix-it-fund-it-workshop*
11/19/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Partially Grants Lifeline Service Standards Relief	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-partially-grants-lifeline-service-standards-relief/ starks-statement*
11/6/2019	Commissioner Starks Announces New Legal Advisor	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-new-legal-advisor*
11/5/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Approves T-Mobile/Sprint Transaction with Conditions	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-approves-t-mobilesprint-transaction-conditions/ starks-statement*
11/4/2019	Starks Statement, CenturyLink and West 911 Outage Consent Decrees	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-statement-centurylink-and-west-911-outage-consent-decrees*
11/4/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Further Strengthens Lifeline Against Waste, Fraud, and Abuse	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-further-strengthens-lifeline-against-waste-fraud-and-abuse/ starks-statement*
10/31/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Steps to Enforce Quality Standards for Rural Broadband	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-steps-enforce-quality-standards-rural-broadband-0/ starks-statement*
10/30/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Requires 911 Fee Parity for VoIP & Traditional Phone Service	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-requires-911-fee-parity-voip-traditional-phone-service-0/ starks-statement*

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10/28/2019	Starks to Visit Brazil & Colorado to Discuss Network Security & 5G	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-visit-brazil-colorado-discuss-network-security-5g*
10/25/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Grants Charter Communications' Effective Competition Petition	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-charter-communications-effective-competition-petition-0/starks-statement*
10/23/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Opens Annual Inquiry on Broadband Deployment	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-annual-inquiry-broadband-deployment-0/starks-statement*
10/22/2019	Green Networks: Incorporating energy efficiency into 5G	*https://thehill.com/blogs/congress-blog/technology/466906-green-networks-incorporating-energy-efficiency-into-5g/*
10/17/2019	Commissioner Starks on Diversity MOU	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-diversity-mou*
10/16/2019	Commissioner Starks on the Sprint/T-Mobile Transaction	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-sprintt-mobile-transaction*
10/16/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts Political File Clarification Order	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-political-file-clarification-order/starks-statement*
10/1/2019	Commissioner Starks Statement on Net Neutrality Court Decision	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-net-neutrality-court-decision*
9/30/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Invests $950 Million to Improve Broadband in Puerto Rico, USVI	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-invests-950-million-improve-broadband-puerto-rico-usvi-0/starks-statement*
9/27/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Adopts Reforms to Further Reduce Access Arbitrage	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-adopts-reforms-further-reduce-access-arbitrage/starks-statement*
9/27/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Bidding Procedures for PALs in 3.5 GHz Auction	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-bidding-procedures-pals-35-ghz-auction/starks-statement*
9/26/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Streamlined Public Notice Rules for Broadcasters	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-streamlined-public-notice-rules-broadcasters-0/starks-statement*
9/26/2019	Starks Statement, FCC Seeks Comment on Bidding Procedures for 3.5 GHz Auction	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-bidding-procedures-35-ghz-auction/starks-statement*
9/24/2019	Commissioner Starks on Sprint Lifeline Investigation and Merger Review	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-sprint-lifeline-investigation-and-merger-review*
9/23/2019	Commissioner Starks on Third Circuit Striking Down Media Deregulation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-third-circuit-striking-down-media-deregulation*
9/16/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Grants Transaction Between Tribune Media and Nexstar Media Group	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-transaction-between-tribune-media-and-nexstar-media-group/starks-statement*
9/13/2019	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks to the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-cbcf-annual-legislative-conference*
09/12/2019	The security necessity for U.S. innovation in 5G networks	*https://www.mercurynews.com/2019/09/12/opinion-the-security-necessity-for-u-s-innovation-in-5g-networks/*

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9/9/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Western Telecommunications Association Fall Meeting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-western-telecommunications-association*
9/9/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $272,000 Fine of CBS for Misuse of Emergency Alert Tone	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-272000-fine-cbs-misuse-emergency-alert-tone/starks-statement*
8/20/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Strengthens Rural Health Care Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-strengthens-rural-health-care-program-0/starks-statement*
8/19/2019	Commissioner Starks Visits New Mexico Tribal Communities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-visits-new-mexico-tribal-communities*
8/6/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Comcast Internet Essentials Expansion Kickoff Event, Miami, FL	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-internet-essentials-event-miami*
8/6/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $233,000 Fine Against Cumulus Media	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-233000-fine-against-cumulus-media/starks-statement*
8/6/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Improves Broadband Mapping	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-improves-broadband-mapping-0/starks-statement*
8/5/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Bans Malicious Spoofing of Text Messages & Foreign Robocalls	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-bans-malicious-spoofing-text-messages-foreign-robocalls-0/starks-statement*
8/2/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $20.4 Billion Rural Digital Opportunity Fund	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-204-billion-rural-digital-opportunity-fund-0/starks-statement*
8/2/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Grants Relief From Outdated, Burdensome Phone Industry Regulations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-grants-relief-outdated-burdensome-phone-industry-regulations/starks-statement*
8/2/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Improves Access to 911 and Timely Assistance from First Responders	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-improves-access-911-and-timely-assistance-first-responders-0/starks-statement*
8/2/2019	Starks Statement: Streamlining Licensing Procedures for Small Satellites	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/streamlining-licensing-procedures-small-satellites-1/starks-statement*
8/2/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Enforces Franchising Laws to Promote Broadband Deployment	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-enforces-franchising-laws-promote-broadband-deployment-0/starks-statement*
07/25/2019	Can satellite broadband solve rural Internet inequality?	*https://www.orlandosentinel.com/opinion/guest-commentary/os-op-broadband-internet-20190725-*
7/25/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Williams & Connolly Celebration Of Diversity	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ commissioner-starks-remarks-celebration-diversity-event*
7/12/2019	Starks Statement: Removing Unnecessary Regulation of Transport Services and Facilities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/removing-unnecessary-regulation-transport-services-and-facilities-0/starks-statement*
7/12/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Modernizes Children's TV Programming Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modernizes-childrens-tv-programming-rules-0/starks-statement*

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7/12/2019	Starks Statement: Improving Competitive Broadband Access to Multiple Tenant Environments	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/improving-competitive-broadband-access-multiple-tenant-environments-0/starks-statement*
7/12/2019	Commissioner Starks Appoints Special Advisor	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-appoints-special-advisor*
7/11/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes $100 Million Connected Care Pilot Telehealth Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/ fcc-proposes-100-million-connected-care-pilot-telehealth-program-0/starks-statement*
7/11/2019	Commissioner Starks Releases Free Robocall Blocking Responses	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-releases-free-robocall-blocking-responses*
7/11/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Transforms 2.5 GHz Band for 5G Services	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-transforms-25-ghz-band-5g-services-0/starks-statement*
7/9/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Aims to Speed the Deployment of Wi-Fi in Schools and Libraries	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-aims-speed-deployment-wi-fi-schools-and-libraries/starks-statement*
07/01/2019	The Case for Using Algorithms to Validate Broadband Data	*https://www.nextgov.com/ideas/2019/07/case-using-algorithms-validate-broadband-data/158127/*
6/29/2019	Commr Starks Announces June 27 Public Workshop On Network Security	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commr-starks-announces-june-27-public-workshop-network-security*
6/27/2019	Security Vulnerabilities Within Our Communications Networks: Find it, Fix it, Fund it, Opening Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-network-security-workshop*
6/21/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Equal Employment Opportunity Enforcement	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-equal-employment-opportunity-enforcement/starks-statement*
6/19/2019	Addressing Security Vulnerabilities In Our Networks: Find It, Fix It, Fund It	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-speech-network-security-fcba*
6/10/2019	Starks Seeks Industry Plans For Free Robocall Blocking By Default	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/comr-starks-seeks-industry-plans-free-robocall-blocking-default*
6/7/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Affirms Robocall Blocking By Default to Protect Consumers	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-affirms-robocall-blocking-default-protect-consumers-0/starks-statement*
6/7/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes Changes to Rules to Promote Aviation Safety	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-changes-rules-promote-aviation-safety-0/starks-statement*
6/7/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Modernizes Cable TV Leased Access Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modernizes-cable-tv-leased-access-rules-0/starks-statement*
5/31/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Initiates Evaluation of Funding for USF	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-initiates-evaluation-funding-usf/starks-statement*
5/29/2019	Starks Statement: Broadband Deployment Report: Digital Divide Narrowing Substantially	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/broadband-deployment-report-digital-divide-narrowing-substantially-0/starks-statement*
05/26/2019	The Huawei threat is already here	*https://thehill.com/opinion/technology/445493-the-huawei-threat-is-already-here/*

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5/22/2019	Remarks—Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-partnership-progress-digital-divide*
5/20/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Steps to Fund All FY 2018 Services in the RHC Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-steps-fund-all-fy-2018-services-rhc-program/starks-statement*
5/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Acts to Improve Video Relay Service & Expand Options for Users	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-improve-video-relay-service-expand-options-users-0/starks-statement*
5/10/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Denies China Mobile Telecom Services Application	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-denies-china-mobile-telecom-services-application-0/starks-statement*
5/9/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Improves Interference Resolution Process for FM Translators	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-improves-interference-resolution-process-fm-translators-0/starks-statement*
4/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Repeals Unnecessary Policy That Raises Rural Phone Rates	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-repeals-unnecessary-policy-raises-rural-phone-rates-0/starks-statement*
4/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Steps to Make Millimeter Wave Spectrum Available for 5G	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-steps-make-millimeter-wave-spectrum-available-5g-0/starks-statement*
4/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Eliminates Outdated Regulations Burdening Phone Industry	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-eliminates-outdated-regulations-burdening-phone-industry-0/starks-statement*
4/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Bidding Procedures for Third 5G Spectrum Auction	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-bidding-procedures-third-5g-spectrum-auction-0/ starks-statement*
4/12/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Proposes to Modernize Rule for Over-the-Air Reception Devices	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-modernize-rule-over-air-reception-devices-0/starks-statement*
4/12/2019	Starks Statement, FCC Eliminates Outdated Cable Channel Lineup Requirements	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-eliminates-outdated-cable-channel-lineup-requirements/starks-statement*
4/10/2019	Commissioner Starks on the Passage of Net Neutrality Legislation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-passage-net-neutrality-legislation*
04/02/2019	Why It's So Easy for a Bounty Hunter to Find You	*https://www.nytimes.com/2019/04/02/opinion/fcc-wireless-regulation.html?smid=nytcore-ios-share*
3/21/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Opens Spectrum Horizons for New Services & Technologies	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-opens-spectrum-horizons-new-services-technologies-0/starks-statement*
3/18/2019	Starks Statement: Wireless E911 Location Accuracy Requirements	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/wireless-e911-location-accuracy-requirements-6/starks-statement*
3/15/2019	Starks Statement, FCC Makes Proposal to Help First Responders Locate 911 Callers	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-makes-proposal-help-first-responders-locate-911-callers/starks-statement*
3/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC to Evaluate Partitioning, Disaggregation, & Spectrum Leasing Rules	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-evaluate-partitioning-disaggregation-spectrum-leasing-rules-0/starks-statement*

Date	Title	Link
3/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Additional Steps to Combat Rural Call Completion Problems	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-additional-steps-combat-rural-call-completion-problems-0/starks-statement*
3/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Expands Reimbursement Program to LPTV, TV Translator, FM Stations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-expands-reimbursement-program-lptv-tv-translator-fm-stations-0/starks-statement*
3/6/2019	Commissioner Starks Statement on Open Internet Legislation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-open-internet-legislation*
2/26/2019	Commissioner Starks Statement On Windstream Bankruptcy Filing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-windstream-bankruptcy-filing*
2/15/2019	Reexamination of the Comparative Standards and Procedures for Licensing Noncommercial Educational Broadcast and Low Power FM Stations	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-proposes-streamline-nce-fm-lpfm-licensing-procedures-0/starks-statement*
2/15/2019	FCC Acts to Implement Section 503 of RAY BAUM'S Act	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-combat-illegal-spoofed-texts-international-calls-0/starks-statement*
2/15/2019	Misuse of Internet Protocol (IP) Captioned Telephone Service; Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-acts-improve-management-ip-captioned-telephone-service-0/starks-statement*
2/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Takes Next Step Toward Further Rural Broadband Expansion	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-takes-next-step-toward-further-rural-broadband-expansion-0/starks-statement*
2/15/2019	Starks Statement: FCC Eliminates EEO Broadcaster Mid-Term Filing Requirement	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-eliminates-eeo-broadcaster-mid-term-filing-requirement-0/starks-statement*
2/14/2019	Commissioner Starks Announces Staff Changes	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-staff-changes*
2/1/2019	Commissioner Starks Statement on Open Internet Oral Argument	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-statement-open-internet-oral-argument*
1/30/2019	Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Statement on Being Sworn in as FCC Commissioner	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-geoffrey-starks-being-sworn-fcc-commissioner*
1/30/2019	Commissioner Starks Announces Staff	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-announces-staff*
08/30/2010	Tinker's Tenure in the School Setting: The Case for Applying O'Brien to Content-Neutral Regulations. Yale Law Journal Online	*https://www.yalelawjournal.org/forum/tinkers-tenure-in-the-school-setting-the-case-for-applying-obrien-to-content-neutral-regulations*
4/2006	Defining Corporate Scienter. Securities Litigation Report (co-authored with Warren R. Stern while a summer associate at Wachtell)	No link available

Date	Title	Link
4/15/02	"Forty Acres and a Lexus." The Harvard Crimson	*https://www.thecrimson.com/article/2002/4/15/forty-acres-and-a-lexus-climenko/*

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (*e.g.,* PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

To the best of my knowledge, please see the list below.

Date	Title	Link
5/30/2023	INLIVIAN Your Home, Your Internet Kick-Off with Governor Roy Cooper	Not available
5/25/2023	FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Senator John Hickenlooper to Launch New 'Your Home, Your Internet' ACP Pilot Program	Not available
5/24/2023	Connect New Mexico Panel: Shared Missions: Interagency Coordination for Universal Connectivity	*https://connect.nm.gov/statewide-summit.html?locale=en*
05/13/2023	Commissioner Starks to Join House Democratic Leader Rep. Hakeem Jeffries At Affordable Broadband Event In New York City	Not available
4/29/2023	FCBA Annual Seminar: Regulatory Coda—A Fireside Chat With FCC Commissioner Starks	Not available
4/26/2023	Disability Advisory Committee Meeting	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/04/disability-advisory-committee-meeting*
4/25/2023	Starks & Carr to Champion Broadband & 5G Workforce at VSU	Not available
4/20/2023	Commissioner Starks Visits San Diego Housing Commission to Promote Internet Connectivity Program for Households with Low Income	Not available
3/17/2023	Commissioner Starks Remarks at U.S. Tech for Climate Action	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-us-tech-climate-action*
3/7/2023	INCOMPAS Policy Summit	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-incompas-2023-policy-summit*
2/28/2023	Americas' Public Television Stations, Public Media Summit	*https://apts.org/events/public-media-summit/2023-public-media-summit/remarks-fcc-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-2023-summit*
2/27/2023	Remarks of FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at the 20th Annual NG911 Honor Awards	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-ng911-honor-awards*
2/22/2023	Discussion at Southern Nevada Regional Housing Authority	Not available

Date	Title	Link
2/7/2023	Commissioner Starks Remarks to CEDC Media Ownership Diversity Symposium	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-cedc-media-ownership-diversity-symposium*
2/2/2023	Prefatory Remarks at Meeting of FCC Native Nations Communications Task Force	Not available
1/10/2023	Fireside Chat with Scott Wallsten, Technology Policy Institute	Not available
1/7/2023	Fireside Chat, "Conversation with a Commissioner" at Consumer Electronics Show 2023	*https://videos.ces.tech/detail/video/6319552134112/conversation-with-a-commissioner-at-ces-2023*
12/15/2022	Practicing Law Institute, 40th Annual Institute on Telecommunications Policy and Regulation	*https://www.pli.edu/programs/telecommunications-policy_regulation?t=live&p=334225&tCode=RNE2_FCBAD&utm_source=FCBAD&utm_medium=DISPLAY&utm_campaign=RNE2*
10/25/2022	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At The Open Technology Institute Event, "LEO Satellite Constellations: Why Smart Sharing Rules Matter In Space"	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-open-technology-institute-ngso-satellite-event*
10/18/2022	Future of Broadcast Television @ University of Pennsylvania Law School, Center for Technology, Innovation & Competition	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-388359A1.pdf*
10/14/2022	Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies: 2022 Future of Black Communities Summit, Panel on Technology Priorities in Black Communities	Not available
10/10/2022	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At The Americas Spectrum Management Pre-Conference Dinner	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-americas-spectrum-management-pre-conference-dinner*
10/6/2022	Let It Be Known with Stacy Brown, Ensuring Inclusion in Communications and Media	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2_UrwQjasY&t=1173s*
9/13/2022	Conversation with a Commissioner, CTA	*https://www.cta.tech/*
8/18/2022	Discussion about Affordable Connectivity Program with Denver Housing Authority, Colorado Lt. Gov. Primavera, Denver Mayor Hancock, and Colorado Attorney General Phil Weiser	Not available
8/17/2022	Fireside Chat: North American Telecommunications Regulators @ Technology Policy Institute Aspen Forum	Not available

Date	Title	Link
8/17/2022	Roundtable on Digital Equity at Denver Indian Center	Not available
7/20/2022	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At The Multicultural Media, Telecom & Internet Council's 2022 Former FCC Chairs Symposium	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-mmtc-former-fcc-chairs-symposium*
6/27/2022	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Before Ericsson's 2022 Broadband For All Summit	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-ericssons-2022-broadband-all-summit*
5/18/2022	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks before the Council of Large Public Housing Authorities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-council-large-public-housing-authorities*
5/17/2022	Fireside Chat with Deputy Secretary Todman, Housing and Urban Development	Not available
5/12/2022	EdTech Advocacy Day	*https://www.govtech.com/education/k-12/edtech-advocacy-day-modernizing-e-rate-a-policy-priority*
5/6/2022	Oakland Undivided	*https://www.oaklandundivided.org/celebrate*
4/11/2022	Consortium for School Networking Annual Conference	*https://edtechmagazine.com/k12/article/2022/04/cosn2022-leaders-speak-educational-equity-through-tech-conference-keynote*
3/11/2022	Roundtable on Affordable Connectivity Program with staff from the Office of the Mayor of Los Angeles; Jersey City Housing Authority; Denver Housing Authority; Chief Technology Officer of New York City; Boston Housing Authority	Not available
3/3/2022	FCC Digital Health/ Connect2Health Symposium	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/03/digital-health-symposium-advancing-broadband-connectivity-social*
2/28/2022	America's Public Media Stations, 2022 Public Media Summit	*https://apts.org/events/public-media-summit/2022-public-media-summit/remarks-fcc-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-2022-summit*
2/28/2022	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks State of the Net Keynote	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-state-net-keynote-february-28–2022*
2/24/2022	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Disability Advisory Committee Meeting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-disability-advisory-committee*
2/22/2022	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Connecting Black Communities: Federal, State, And Local Strategies For Closing The Digital Divide	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-connecting-black-communities-event*
2/17/2022	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks to ATIS' Next G Alliance: The Roadmap To 6G	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-next-g-alliance-roadmap-6g*

Date	Title	Link
1/13/2022	Fireside Chat with Former FCC Commissioner Robert M. McDowell	Not available
1/11/2022	Fireside Chat, Funding and Modernizing America's Digital Infrastructure	*https://bridgeforinnovation.org/funding-and-modernizing-americas-broadband-infrastructure/(video)*
12/1/2021	Virtual Telecom Symposium	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NXB7cY3Q-TY*
11/18/2021	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Before The 2021 Winnik Forum	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-2021-winnik-forum*
11/17/2021	Keynote Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, New Street Research/Boston Consulting Group 5G Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-nsrbcg-5g-conference*
9/20/2021	Digital Inclusion Week	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ml5s4WgKvAY*
9/14/2021	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Congressional Black Caucus Foundation 2021 Virtual Annual Legislative Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-cbc-foundation-annual-legislative-conference*
7/29/2021	Expanding Broadband in the Black Rural South	*https://jointcenter.org/joint-center-hosts-expanding-broadband-in-the-black-rural-south-webinar*
7/14/2021	The Future of Human Connectivity	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nhHKoDX4jE*
6/29/2021	Now What?: Charting the Next Phase in Closing the Digital Divide	*https://www.ocanational.org/events-list/now-what-charting-the-next-phase-in-closing-the-digital-divide*
6/21/2021	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Before Ericsson's Broadband For All Online Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-ericssons-broadband-all-conference*
5/18/2021	WIA's Connect (X): All Access Workforce & Supplier Diversity Summit	*https://workforceandsupplierdiversity.connectivityexpo.com/?utm_campaign=CX%20Workforce%20%26%20 Supplier%20Diversity&utm_source=e-mail&utm_term=5.11&utm_content=CX%20List*
5/13/2021	Miriam's Kitchen Gala—acceptance of Mission Critical Change Award	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SncaGgZvdyo*
5/11/2021	The New Normal, Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Media Institute Virtual Luncheon	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-media-institute*
4/26/2021	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at the FCC & NCSC National Supply Chain Integrity Joint Workshop	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-supply-chain-integrity-workshop*
4/16/2021	National Action Network 2021 Virtual Convention	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xFENnuDtNKA*
3/23/2021	Commissioner Starks Remarks at Joint NTIA Webinar for Women's History Month	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-joint-ntia-webinar-womens-history-month*

Date	Title	Link
3/17/2021	Keynote Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At The American Conference Institute National Forum On Team Telecom	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-keynote-aci-team-telecom-conference*
3/10/2021	Combatting Systemic Inequality by Closing the Digital Divide: A Chat on Solutions with FCC Commissioner Starks	*https://internetinnovation.org/events/webinar-combatting-systemic-inequality-by-closing-the-digital-divide-a-chat-onsolutions-with-fcc-commissioner-starks/*
2/18/2021	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, HBCU Presidents' Roundtable: Building An Equitable, Connected Future	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-2021-hbcu-presidents-roundtable*
2/18/2021	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at the Tribal Government E-Commerce Conference, Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law at Arizona State University	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-asus-wiring-rez-conference*
2/12/2021	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Emergency Broadband Benefit Roundtable, Federal Communications Commission	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-emergency-broadband-benefit-roundtable*
2/12/2021	Silicon Flatirons TILT 2021 Keynote Discussion	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZHXjgWgucyU&list=PLTAvIPZGMUXNy0dcxuaxtjDL-fDiHYVpe&index=13*
2/11/2021	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, The Future Of Work: Black-Owned Businesses And The Digital Divide	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-future-work-black-owned-businesses-event*
2/5/2021	INCOMPAS Policy Summit	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qsOy3l1C2bQ*
1/26/2021	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at State of the Net 2021	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/remarks-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-state-net-2021*
1/11/2021	CES Accessibility Roundtable	Not available
12/9/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks MMTC Champions Of Digital Equity And 35th Anniversary Kickoff	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-mmtc-digital-equity-35th-anniversary-kickoff*
12/3/2020	AXIOS Event on Future of Broadband Connectivity	*FCC commissioner: Access to broadband essential to boosting telehealth*
11/19/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Rainbow Push Coalition And Citizenship Education Fund, Media And Telecommunications Symposium	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-keynote-remarks-rainbow-push-coalition-symposium*
11/17/2020	Foreign Policy 5G Event	*FP Virtual Dialogue: Open Networks—Foreign Policy*
11/12/2020	Interactive Advertising Bureau Fireside Chat	Not available

Date	Title	Link
11/6/2020	Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Opening Remarks	*Path to Media Ownership and Sustainability—Symposium on Access to Capital for Small and Diverse Broadcasters | Federal Communications Commission*
10/28/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks CTIA 5G Summit	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/remarks-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-ctia-5g-summit*
10/26/2020	FCBA -ABA Privacy and Data Security Conference	*Starks Remarks at ABA/FCBA Privacy and Data Security Symposium | Federal Communications Commission*
10/22/2020	TPI Aspen Panel Broadband and the FCC: Successes and Challenges	*Broadband and the FCC: Successes and Challenges*
10/16/2020	HTTP Record Remarks	Not available
10/16/2020	National Urban League Social Media Regulation and Civil Rights	*Joint Center Joins National Urban League Panel on Social Media Regulation & Civil Rights*
10/15/2020	Hispanic Radio Conference	*Commissioner Starks Remarks at the Hispanic Radio Conference | Federal Communications Commission*
10/15/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Hispanic Radio Conference/Hispanic Radio Live!	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-hispanic-radio-conference*
10/13/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At The 9th Americas Spectrum Management Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/comm-starks-9th-annual-americas-spectrum-management-conference*
10/5/2020	NABOB's 44th Annual Fall Broadcast Management Conference and 20th Annual Power of Urban Radio Forum	*2020 NABOB & Power of Urban Radio Awards Hosted by April Ryan*
9/29/2020	WashTECH Converge 2020	Not available
9/24/2020	Black is Tech Keynote	*Commissioner Starks Remarks to Black Is Tech Conference* | Federal Communications Commission
9/18/2020	Incompas Keynote	*INCOMPAS Show Keynote: FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks*
9/15/2020	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at the 2020 INCOMPAS Show	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-2020-incompas-show-september-15-2020*
9/14/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Forum On 5G Open Radio Access Networks	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-forum-5g-open-radio-access-networks*
9/9/2020	FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at CDT	*Senator Wyden and FCC Commr. Starks on the Social Media Executive Order—Center for Democracy and Technology*
9/3/2020	Dell PolicyHACK with CBC	*https://www.eventbrite.com/x/dell-policyhack-at-cbc-alc-2020-tickets-116789912773*
7/28/2020	DEFCON Ethics Village Event	*DEF CON Safe Mode Ethics Village—Comm Geoffrey Starks, Federal Communications Commission*
7/27/2020	Latinx Communities and the Digital Divide Event	Not available
7/21/2020	National Urban League Kansas City Digital Divide Event	*Bridging the Digital Divide in the COVID–19 Era: A Virtual Fireside Chat*
7/13/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Addressing Black Mental Health Via Teleconference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-black-mental-health-event*

Date	Title	Link
7/7/2020	USTelecom Event	*The Role of Connectivity in Digital Equity & Inclusion—USTelecom*
6/17/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At Information Technology & Innovation Foundation's Webinar On The FCC's Role In Reforming Section 230	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-itif-webinar-section-230*
6/4/2020	Digital Dialogue Forum Webinar	*FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks—Digital Dialogue Forum*
6/1/2020	National Urban League webinar	Not available
5/29/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Commercial Spaceflight Federation Webinar	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-commercial-spaceflight-federation-webinar*
5/18/2020	The Internet After COVID	Not available
5/11/2020	HTTP Telehealth Event	Not available
5/7/2020	Connecting Michigan Virtual Event	*Connecting Michigan: From Internet Inequality to Digital Equity | Federal Communications Commission*
5/4/2020	HBCU Presidents Panel	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-hbcu-presidents-roundtable*
5/2/2020	FCBA PANEL	Not available
4/28/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Advisory Committee On Diversity And Digital Empowerment	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-acdde-virtual-meeting*
4/24/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Advisory Committee On Diversity And Digital Empowerment, Via Teleconference	*https://www.aspeninstitute.org/videos/disconnected-covid-19-the-digital-divide/*
4/23/2020	Aspen Cybersecurity Event	Not available
4/21/2020	Commissioner Starks Remarks at NTCA Legislative and Policy Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-ntca-legislative-and-policy-conference*
4/17/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at Town Hall Via Video Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-remarks-mediajustice-right2connect-town-hall*
4/15/2020	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Telephone Town Hall with Rep. Yvette Clarke on the Role of Technology in the Face of COVID–19	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-telephone-town-hall-rep-yvette-clarke*
4/4/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks at the HBCU Presidents' Roundtable: The State Of Connectivity In The Age Of The Covid-19 Pandemic	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-hbcu-presidents-roundtable*
2/26/2020	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Field Hearing on Resilient Communications Networks, San Juan, Puerto Rico	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/remarks-commissioner-starks-field-hearing-resilient-networks*

Date	Title	Link
2/21/2020	Field Hearing on Resilient Networks	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/remarks-commissioner-starks-field-hearing-resilient-networks*
2/20/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Rural Broadband Roundtable Conversation	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-rural-broadband-roundtable*
2/19/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Congresswoman Lucy McBath's Census Town Hall	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-rep-mcbaths-census-town-hall*
2/18/2020	Selma, AL meeting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/highlights-commissioner-starks-southern-tour*
2/18/2020	Alabama A&M: Rural Communities and Broadband Access Forum	Not available
2/17/2020	Tifton-Tiff County Chamber of Commerce	Not available
2/11/2020	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Future Of Work Roundtable, Washington	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-future-work-roundtable*
2/5/2020	Congressional Tech Staff Association Fireside Chat	Not available
1/28/2020	NAB Board of Directors	*Commissioner Starks Remarks to NAB Joint Board of Directors | Federal Communications Commission*
1/23/2020	Next Century Cities Bipartisan Tech Policy Event	*https://livestream.com/internetsociety/bipartisntech2020*
1/16/2020	Future of Work Congressional Caucus Launch	*Starks Remarks at Future of Work Congressional Caucus Launch | Federal Communications Commission*
1/6/2020	CES—CTA Government Affairs Council	*Commissioner Starks Remarks to CTA Government Affairs Council | Federal Communications Commission*
12/10/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, 2019 Annual Premier Membership & Strategic Meeting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-fiber-broadband-association*
11/20/2019	Army Cyber Institute at West Point Fireside Chat	Not available
11/4/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Broadband Communities Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-proposes-data-driven-10-year-look-back-high-cost-program*
10/31/2019	National Security Keynote Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks At The 5G Rural Engagement Initiative	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-denver-5g-rural-engagement-initiative*
10/31/2019	MMTC Fireside Chat	Not available
10/31/2019	Broadband Communities Keynote Address	Not available
10/30/2019	CCA and U.S. Chamber of Commerce National Security Keynote	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-denver-5g-rural-engagement-initiative*
10/23/2019	CTIA Board of Directors	Not available
10/23/2019	Mobile World Congress	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-mobile-world-congress-americas*

Date	Title	Link
10/17/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks To The 9th Annual Schools, Health, & Libraries Broadband Coalition (SHLB) Conference	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-shlb-conference*
10/15/2019	SIA Roundtable	Not available
10/8/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Media Institute Free Speech America Gala	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-media-institute-free-speech-america-gala*
10/7/2019	Ford Foundation Public Interest Fireside Chat	Not available
10/4/2019	Rep. Delgado Small Business Field Hearing on Rural Broadband	Not available
9/17/2019	Remarks Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Competitive Carriers Association Annual Convention	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-competitive-carriers-association*
9/17/2019	CCA Annual Convention Remarks	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=JGGKCXoon4Y*
9/13/2019	CBC ALC Week Panel: New Technologies Protecting Our Communities	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-359665A1.pdf*
9/9/2019	Western Telecommunications Association Fall Meeting	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-western-telecommunications-association*
8/6/2019	Comcast Internet Essentials Expansion Kickoff Event	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC09358946A1.pdf*
7/31/2019	Center for Strategic and International Studies 5G Innovation and Security Event	*https://www.csis.org/events/5g-innovation-and-security*
7/25/2019	Williams & Connolly Panel	Not available
6/27/2019	Supply Chain Workshop	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CVxwtQqa8x8*
6/27/2019	5G America's Board Meeting	Not available
6/19/2019	FCBA Luncheon—Keynote fireside chat, "Addressing Security Vulnerabilities in Our Networks: Find it, Fix it, Fund it"	Not available
6/4/2019	Foundation for Rural Services	Not available
5/22/2019	Georgetown Institute for Tech Law and Policy: Partnership for Progress on the Digital Divide	*http://www.ppdd.org/conferences/ppdd2019/*
5/8/2019	Black Economic alliance Jobs and Justice Panel	Not available
4/30/2019	CTIA Event on Telemedicine	Not available
4/10/2019	Disability Advisory Committee Meeting	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/04/disability-advisory-committee-meeting*
4/7/2019	National Association of Broadcasters Panel	Not available
3/7/2019	Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/03/symposium-media-diversity*

Date	Title	Link
3/6/2019	MMTC'S Annual Broadband and Social Justice Summit	*https://www.mmtconline.org/broadband-and-social-justice-awards-luncheon-2019-bbsj-summit/*
3/1/2019	Event on Rural-Urban Broadband Digital Divide	Not available
3/1/2019	Digital Inclusion Alliance	Not available
3/1/2019	Urban Summit	Not available
1/20/2019	Center for American and International Law Institute for Law and Technology Conference	*https://w.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-center-american-and-international-law*
3/29/2017	Verizon Rural Call Completion Industry Workshop, March 29, 2017, National Press Club. Comments issued on behalf of the FCC.	Not available

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

To the best of my knowledge, please see the list below.

Date	Title	Link
5/9/2023	'Rip and Replace': The Tech Cold War Is Upending Wireless Carriers	*https://www.nytimes.com/2023/05/09/technology/cellular-china-us-zte-huawei.html*
2/5/23	Chavis Chronicles Interview	*https://watch.opb.org/video/geoffrey-starks-fcc-commissioner-attorney-jpN6u6/*
12/14/2022	State of Black America—Bridging the Digital Divide	*https://stateofblackamerica.libsyn.com/bridging-the-digital-divide*
4/14/2022	CNN AC360, segment on Russian state media in the United States	*https://transcripts.cnn.com/show/acd/date 2022-04-13/segment/01*
6/24/20	FCC Commissioner Calls for New Scrutiny of Undersea Data Cables	*https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-trade-china-telecommunications/fcc-commissioner-calls-for-new-scrutiny-of-undersea-data-cables-idUSKBN26L3NF*
4/14/2020	Rep. Clarke Town Hall Event	*Commissioner Starks Telephone Town Hall with Rep. Yvette Clarke | Federal Communications Commission*
4/10/2020	Joint Centers AA Leaders Forum	*Joint Center Hosts Briefing with FCC Commissioner Geoffrey Starks on COVID–19 & the Digital Divide*
4/4/2020	WashingTech Podcast Interview with Joe Miller	*Hon. Geoffrey Starks: Communications Policy in the COVID–19 Era Hon. Geoffrey Starks | Tech Policy Leaders Podcast*
3/12/2020	Coronavirus exposes the digital divide's toll	*https://www.axios.com/2020/03/12/coronavirus-exposes-the-digital-divides-toll*
1/23/2020	Remarks of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks Next Century Cities Opportunities for Bipartisan Tech Policy 2020	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-remarks-next-century-cities*
12/10/2019	PLI Telecommunications Seminar Keynote	*https://www.pli.edu/programs/telecommunications-policy—regulation?t=live&tCode=TMP1_FCBA1&p=248657*
10/3/2019	NABOB 43rd Annual Fall Broadcast Management Conference Fireside Chat	*https://www.facebook.com/NABOBOfficial/videos/2019-nabob-conference-the-radio-industrys-state-of-management-ownership-and-futu/800924263659716/*

Date	Title	Link
9/18/2019	Bloomberg Law Leadership Conference	*https://pro.bloomberglaw.com/brief/regulation-and-legislation-lag-behind-technology/*
8/29/2019	Brandi Vincent Podcast	*https://www.nextgov.com/podcasts/2019/09/critical-update-hidden-threats-5g/160124/*
7/10/2019	Washington Post Live	*https://www.washingtonpost.com/video/postlive/wplive/fcc-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-cites-national-security-among-reasons-us-must-win-5g-race/2019/07/10/01bfda7d-48c9-4203-b219-0c7443773425_video.html?nid=top_pb_signin*
7/1/2019	Live with Ali Velshi	*https://twitter.com/i/status/1146102430062587904*
6/6/2019	CBS News Radio Las Angeles	Not available
5/21/2019	The Vergecast	*https://www.theverge.com/2019/5/21/18634519/fcc-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-huawei-google-android-data-geolocation-ajit-pai*
5/20/2019	NPR	*https://www.npr.org/2019/05/30/728198739/huawei-threat-is-already-here-fcc-commissioner-starks-says*
5/3/2019	Velshi and Ruhle	*https://www.msnbc.com/velshi-ruhle/watch/fcc-commissioner-on-facebook-privacy-promises-58800197881*
4/26/2019	NUL National Podcast	*https://www.stitcher.com/show/for-the-movement/episode/making-the-net-work-for-all-americans-a-conversation-with-fcc-commissioner-geoffrey-starks-61473389*

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an "alias" or "handle", including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

Twitter—@GeoffreyStarks. *https://twitter.com/GeoffreyStarks.* Active.

Facebook—Geoffrey Starks (private account). Active.

Instagram—geoffreystarks. Active.

LinkedIn—Geoffrey Starks. Active.

21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

Full Title: Statement Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, FCC, Before The Subcommittee On Communications & Technology, Committee On Energy & Commerce, United States House Of Representatives. March 31, 2022
https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-testimony-house-communications-and-technology-subcommittee-0

Full Title: Statement Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Federal Communications Commission Before The Subcommittee On Communications & Technology Committee On Energy & Commerce United States House Of Representatives. Sep. 17, 2020
https://www.fcc.gov/document/starks-testimony-house-communications-and-technology-subcommittee

Full Title: Statement Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, Federal Communications Commission, (As Delivered), Before The Committee On Commerce, Science And Transportation, United States Senate. June 24, 2020
https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-testimony-senate-commerce-committee

Full Title: Statement Of Commissioner Geoffrey Starks, FCC, Hearing On The President's Fiscal Year 2021 Budget Request For The FCC Before The Subcommittee On Financial Services And General Government, Committee On Appropriations, United States Senate. Mar. 10, 2020.
https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-testimony-senate-appropriations-subcommittee

Full Title: Commissioner Starks, FCC, Before The Subcommittee On Communications And Technology Committee On Energy & Commerce, United States House Of Representatives, Accountability And Oversight Of The Federal Communications Commission. Dec. 5, 2019
https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starks-testimony-house-energy-commerce-committee

Full Title: Statement Of Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission, Before The Committee On Commerce, Science And Transportation, United States Senate, Oversight Of The Federal Communications Commission. June 12, 2019.
https://www.fcc.gov/document/statement-commissioner-starks-senate-commerce-committee

Full Title: Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission Before The Subcommittee On Communications And Technology Committee On Energy & Commerce, United States House Of Representatives, Accountability And Oversight Of The FCC. May 15, 2019.
https://www.fcc.gov/document/commissioner-starkss-testimony-house-sub-committee

Nominations Hearing, Geoffrey Starks, Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, June 20, .
https://www.commerce.senate.gov/2018/6/nominations-hearing

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

I have had a long career in public service focused on communications and technology, enforcement, and national security. I have served as a Senate-confirmed Commissioner at the FCC for the last 5 years and, prior to that, I served as Assistant Bureau Chief in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau, as well as in the Department of Justice as Senior Advisor to the Deputy Attorney General.

I've used my experiences and opportunities to engage directly on the most important communications issues facing the American people. At the Commission, I have focused on broadband deployment, enforcement of our rules, and protecting and securing our communications networks by removing insecure equipment and services from domestic networks. I hope to continue to serve the American people through continuing efforts to close the digital divide, protect consumers, and secure our networks.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

I have been honored to serve the American public as a Commissioner, and I take my responsibility to ensure that the Commission works efficiently with proper management and accounting controls seriously. To ensure the agency is properly managed, as a Commissioner, I engage directly with Bureau and Office Chiefs, as well as review and approve all senior personnel movement.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

- *Ensuring Robust Broadband Internet Access and Adoption.* We must ensure that all Americans have access to affordable, high-quality broadband Internet service. A high-speed Internet connection is an essential tool for securing opportunities in employment, healthcare, and education. But many, including rural and low-income communities, have disproportionately low rates of broadband access and adoption. As an FCC Commissioner, I have worked closely with both industry and communities—rural, tribal, and diverse—to ensure that our networks reach every part of America and to understand and address barriers to adoption, chief among them affordability. If reconfirmed, I look forward to continuing this critical work.
- *Realizing the Benefits of 5G.* The ongoing rollout and development of 5G technologies enables benefits that extend far beyond faster speeds on your smartphone. In addition to higher speed, 5G wireless supports lower latencies and a much greater density of connected devices than its predecessors. Due to these capabilities, 5G will provide a platform for future growth and long-term competitive success for America—not just in high tech, but in sectors like manufacturing and agriculture, as well. If reconfirmed, I will continue to focus on how we can realize 5G's full potential everywhere in the country, including in

rural communities that currently lack access to high-speed wireless connectivity.

- *Keeping Up With Pace of Innovation.* The FCC oversees some of the most dynamic sectors in our economy. During my time as a Commissioner, for example, we have seen tremendous growth in space commerce with U.S. companies leading the way. These companies are fueling discovery and innovation while creating thousands of American jobs in many sectors, including manufacturing. We need to support this momentum by finding new ways for government to keep pace. As a Commissioner, my job is to understand, encourage, and support innovation. If reconfirmed, I shall continue to be guided by these principles.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

While working at Williams & Connolly, I contributed to and participated in the firm's 401(k) plan, which is managed by Charles Schwab. Neither I nor my former employer has made any further contributions to that defined contribution since I left the practice in 2013.

While at Goldman Sachs, I contributed to and participated in the firm's 401(k) plan, which is managed by Goldman Sachs itself. Neither I nor my former employer have made any further contributions to the defined contribution plan since I left the firm in 2004.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. None.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest. None.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

Since 2013, I have worked in the public sector—at the Department of Justice and the FCC. At those offices, I have been involved in various ways on a wide-range of legal and public policy issues. I have also been asked, on occasion, to review the implications of legislative proposals. All of those public sector efforts were descriptive and analytical in nature. None was directed at influencing or modifying legislation. Moreover, at no time in my career have I been a registered lobbyist, nor have I ever participated in an effort to influence the course of legislation on behalf of private clients.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:

a. Provide the name of court, agency, association, committee, or group;

b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;

c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;

d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

No.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain. No.
4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.
5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. No.
6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. None.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority? Yes.
2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.
3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes.
4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

RÉSUMÉ OF GEOFFREY ADAM STARKS

EDUCATION

Yale Law School, J.D. 2008, New Haven, CT
Activities: *The Yale Law Journal* (Board Member).
Harvard University, B.A. *Magna Cum Laude,* Social Studies, 2002, Cambridge, MA
Honors: Thomas T. Hoopes Prize, Kathryn Ann Huggins Prize, Judge Charles Wyzanski Prize, Goldman Sachs Scholarship for Excellence.

EMPLOYMENT

2019–Present:	*Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.* Commissioner. Develop and lead communications policy and implementation at independent agency.
2015–2018:	*Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC.* Assistant Chief of the Enforcement Bureau. Conducted investigations under Federal communications laws, and successfully announced over $200 million in negotiated settlements and enforcement actions.
2013–2015:	*United States Department of Justice, Office of the Deputy Attorney General. Washington, DC.* Senior Counsel. Provided advice to the Deputy Attorney General on domestic and international law enforcement, including civil, criminal, and national security matters.
2010–2013:	*Williams & Connolly. Washington, D.C.* Associate. Successfully conducted Major League Baseball salary-arbitration for player. Drafted dispositive motions in complex civil litigation.
2008–2009:	*Law Clerk to Hon. Duane Benton. Kansas City, MO.* Law clerk to U.S. Court of Appeals Judge for the 8th Circuit.
2004–2005:	*Illinois State Senate. Springfield, IL.* Staff Member. Reviewed and analyzed legislation for the Illinois Senate Local Government & Elections Committee.
2002–2004:	*Goldman Sachs Investment Banking. New York, NY.* Performed financial analysis in the investment banking division.

PROFESSIONAL HONORS

Attorney General Award for Exceptional Service.

The CHAIR. Commissioner Starks, thank you for that statement. And again, welcome to your family. And I am sure they are very

proud of your service here. Ms. Gomez, congratulations on your nomination. We look forward to hearing your statement.

STATEMENT OF ANNA GOMEZ, NOMINEE TO BE A COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you. Good morning, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Committee. And I would also like to thank very much, Senator Luján, for your kind words. I appreciate your support. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated, and I would like to thank President Biden for this opportunity.

I would also like to thank my life partner, Kirk Burgee, who is here with me, for his unflagging support. I am so very grateful for the day I met him. I have been working in telecommunications for close to 30 years. More than half of that time spent serving in Government in various capacities at the FCC, the NTIA, the Department of State, and briefly this very committee.

After working briefly at a law firm when the opportunity arose to serve as an attorney advisor at the FCC, I jumped at the chance. Little did I know that three decades of experience that followed would lead me here, speaking before you as a nominee.

I have been an effective leader throughout my career, serving in Government for the majority of my career, and believe I can contribute positively, with all consumers in mind, to the FCC's agenda. And serving in the private sector, including most recently at a law firm, has helped me to understand the importance of vibrant competition and enabling innovation for all parties. I believe the FCC should work to meet the demands of the people it serves.

That means connecting everyone, everywhere to affordable, reliable broadband Internet access. While Congress has given the FCC many important tools to close the digital divide, there is still much work to be done to ensure that every person in every community, regardless of geography or income, has access to high speed broadband.

I have experienced the fear of not being able to afford a telephone bill. I know what it means to risk the loss of connection. Ensuring that everyone in rural, tribal, suburban, and urban communities can get and stay connected is critical to next century's success for us all.

We must be vigilant as well about protecting consumers from spam calls and scam texts to ensuring that the Internet is open and that we can go where we want online without limits. Consumers interests must lead our policymaking.

And as a Latina American, I hope to have the opportunity to bring my perspective to the Commission on ways to address the needs of all communities, including the Latino community. If confirmed, it would be an honor to serve in this role.

If confirmed, I pledge to listen and to work with this committee and with Congress. And if confirmed, I pledge to be guided by the law, stakeholders, and above all, the American people. Thank you.

[The prepared statement and biographical information of Ms. Gomez follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF ANNA GOMEZ, NOMINEE TO BE A MEMBER, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Good morning, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Committee. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated and I would like to thank President Biden for this opportunity. I would also like to thank my life partner, Kirk Burgee, for his unflagging support.

I have been working in telecommunications for close to 30 years, more than half of that time serving in government in various capacities from the FCC, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the White House, and—briefly—this very committee.

Public service is a special calling. A desire to give back and serve my community was instilled in me at a young age.

My father is an immigrant. My mother, who passed away over twenty years ago, was a dentist. My brother is a computer programmer. Growing up, we moved frequently for my dad's job. But after he was laid off and tried to start something on his own, we lost everything. We struggled, like so many families, to stretch the dollar and cut where we could. We did not have money to afford my college tuition, so I worked, borrowed, and paid my way through college and law school. After working briefly at a law firm, when the opportunity arose to serve as an attorney advisor at the FCC, I jumped at the chance. Little did I know that the three decades of experience that followed would lead me here, speaking before you as a nominee.

I have been an effective leader throughout my career, serving in government for the majority of my career, and believe I can contribute positively, with all consumers in mind, to the FCC's agenda. And serving in the private sector, including most recently at a law firm, has helped me understand the importance of vibrant competition and enabling innovation—for all parties, not just incumbents.

Given my broad government experience effectively crafting and implementing telecommunications policy, I would be strategic, decisive, and passionate in representing consumers and the public interest.

The Federal Communications Commission sits at the forefront of technology and innovation. The FCC has never been more relevant and instrumental in our daily lives. Digital life touches every aspect of our work, our education, our health care, and so much more. It also can create unbounded opportunity for those who have it while at the same time, be a locked door to the futures of those without it.

I believe the FCC does best when its work honors the needs of the people it serves. That means connecting everyone everywhere to affordable, reliable internet. While Congress has given the FCC many important tools to close the digital divide, there is still much work to be done to ensure that every person in every community, regardless of geography or income, has access to high-speed broadband. I have experienced the fear of not being able to afford a telephone bill. I know what it means to risk the loss of connection. Ensuring that everyone in rural, tribal, suburban, and urban communities can get and *stay* connected is critical to next-century success for us all.

This also means ensuring our first responders can communicate in times of crisis. My years of working with public safety have given me an appreciation of their unique—and vital—communications needs.

It also means ensuring our connections are secure and resilient. As we build out new networks and deploy a once-in-a-generation level of broadband support to states, it is critical that we shore up our networks so that governments, public safety officials, institutions, and consumers can trust that the information we send and receive is protected.

We must be vigilant about protecting consumers. From spam calls and scam texts to ensuring the Internet is open and that we can go where we want online without limits, consumers' interests must lead our policymaking. As a Latina American, I hope to have the opportunity to bring my perspective to the Commission on ways to address the needs of all communities—including the Latino community.

We must continue to foster innovation by adopting a spectrum strategy to meet today *and* tomorrow's needs. This will ensure our technological leadership continues on a global stage. Managing the Nation's airwaves is always complex given how intertwined they are with innovation and economic growth in the global economy. Spectrum enables many services on which Americans rely every day, like mobile broadband, remote learning, communicating on airplanes and ships, and GPS. If confirmed I look forward to working with all stakeholders, including other Federal agencies, to cement our leadership in 5 and 6G technologies.

If confirmed, it would be an honor to serve in this role. If confirmed, I pledge to listen and work with this Committee and with Congress. If confirmed, I pledge to be guided by the law, stakeholders, and above all, the American people.

Thank you.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Anna Marie Gomez.
2. Position to which nominated: Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission.
3. Date ofNomination: May 30, 2023.
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Residence: Information not released to the public.
Office: U.S. Department of State, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, 2201 C Street, N.W., Washington, DC 20520.

5. Date and Place of Birth: February 17, 1967; Orlando, FL.
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

I am not married and have no children.

My Domestic Partner is Kirk Burgee, Attorney Advisor, Wireline Competition Bureau of the FCC. He is retiring summer 2023.

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

- 1989–1992, George Washington University National Law Center, Juris Doctorate '92
- 1985–1989, Pennsylvania State University, Bachelor of Arts (Prelaw) '89

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Post-Undergraduate Employment

- Temporary Secretary, The Byrnes Group, June–August 1989
- Legal Intern, Office of Commissioner Gallegos, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, May 1990–April 1991
- Summer Associate, Arnold & Porter, May–August 1991
- Law Clerk, Arnold & Porter, October 1991–May 1992
- Associate, Arnold & Porter, September 1992–September 1994

Management-level and non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which nominated:

- Counsel to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau and Attorney, Consumer Protection Division, Cable Services Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, September 1994–November 1996
- Democratic Counsel, Subcommittee on Communication, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, U.S. Senate, November 1996–February 1997
- Deputy Chief of Staff, National Economic Council, White House, February–September 1997
- Deputy Chief and Chief, Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, September 1997–October 1999
- Deputy Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission (FCC), October 1999–January 2006
- Senior Legal Advisor, Office of Chairman William E. Kennard, FCC, July 2000–February 2001
- Vice President, State and Federal Regulatory, Government Affairs, Sprint Nextel, January 2006–January 2009
- Obama-Biden Transition Team (USTR) (November 2008–January 2009)
- Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, National Telecommunications and Information Administration, U.S. Department of Commerce, January 2009–April 2013
- Partner, Wiley Rein LLP, May 2013–June 30, 2022
- Biden-Harris Transition Team (Commerce/NTIA) (November 2020–January 2021)

- Senior Advisor, Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy, January 16, 2023 to present

9. Attach a copy of your résumé.
Please see Attachment A.
10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.

- Member, Vice Chair, and Chair, FCC's Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment (ACDDE)
- Chair Emeritus and Member, FCC Communications Equity and Diversity Council (CEDC)

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.

- Partner, Wiley Rein LLP
- Vice President, Sprint Nextel
- Secretary, Assistant Secretary, Treasurer, Assistant Treasurer, Federal Communications Bar Association

12. Please list each membership you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.
I am unaware that any of the following organizations restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability:

- 1994–Present, Federal Communications Bar Association, Former Assistant Secretary, Secretary, Assistant Treasurer, Treasurer, and Member of Women's Leadership, Annual Seminar, and Nominations Committees.
- Approximately 1992 to present, Hispanic Bar Association of D.C., Former Board Member.
- Approximately 2017 to present, National Hispanic Bar Association.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt. No.
14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.
All these positions were unpaid:

- Co-Chair, Biden-Harris 2020 Campaign Broadband, Telecom, and Digital Equity policy subcommittee (June–November 2020)
- Co-Chair, Biden-Harris 2020 Campaign Innovation Committee GOTV Task Force (September–November 2020)
- Chair, Pete Buttigieg Campaign Technology Policy Committee (November 2019–March 2020)

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of $200 or more for the past ten years.

- Jay Gonzalez, $250 (10-12-2018)
- Northam for Governor, $250 (04-25-2017) and $100 (08-11-2017)
- Phil Weiser, $1,150 (06-27-2017) and $1,000 (11-26-2019)
- Alex Ross and Julie Verrati, $500 (12-13-2017)
- Edward (Smitty) Smith, $500 (8-10-2014) and $500 (8-1-2014)
- Bill Nelson, $1,000 (08-08-2017)

- Friends of Sherrod Brown, $250 (11-09-2017)
- Kaine for Virginia, $250 (08-02-2018), $2,000 (04-11-2016), and $500 (6-26-2017)
- DNC Services Corp, $2,000 (06-27-2016)
- Hillary for America, $2,700 (06-27-2016), $1,000 (01-11-2016), $1,000 (05-31-2016), and $700 (06-27-2016)
- Hillary Victory Fund, $5400 (06-27-2016)
- Doug Jones for Senate Committee, $250 (11-13-2017)
- Democratic Senatorial Campaign Committee, $1,000 (12-31-2018) and $1,000 (12-31-2019)
- Klobuchar for Minnesota, $250 (06-30-2018)
- COLIN4VA, $200 (06-14-2013)
- Hawaii PAC, $500 (01-03-2019), $2020 (12-30-2020)
- Hawaii Senate Victory Fund, $250 (12-30-2020)
- People for Ben, $250 (06-19-2019) and $250 (12-30-2020)
- Biden Victory Fund, $500 (07-23-2020), $500 (08-10-2020), $15 (7-24-2020), $50 (7-24-2020), $25 (9-14-2020), $50 (9-14-2020), $100 (10-5-2020), $100 (10-12-2020), $25 (10-25-2020), and $280 (02-07-2020)
- Biden for President, $36.31 (7-08-2020), $34.39 (7-18-2020), $500 (7-23-2020), $25 (9-14-2020), $50 (9-15-2020), $500 (8-10-2020), $100 (10-5-2020), $100 (10-12-2020), $25 (10-25-2020)
- Movement Voter PAC, $500 (11-16-2020)
- Pallone for Congress, $250 (03-29-2019)
- Quentin Palfrey, $500 (11-02-2021)
- Act Blue, $100 (1-25-2020), $100 (2-12-2020), $110 (2-23-2020), $100 (5-18-2020), $27 (9-13-2020), $25 (9-14-2020), $50 (10-4-2020), $27 (10-4-2020), $2.70 (10-4-2020), $108 (10-4-2020), $10.80 (10-4-2020), $28 (10-13-2020), $27 (10-15-2020), $2.70 (10-15-2020), $31 (10-31-2020), $3.10 (10-31-2020), $50 (10-31-2020), $5 (10-31-2020), $50 (11-16-2020)
- Democratic Party of Wisconsin, $27 (10-4-2020), $27 (10-15-2020), $31 (10-31-2020)

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- Penn State Alumni Fellows Award (2013)
- PCIA/APCO Public Safety Sentinel Award (2013)
- Imagen Latina Leaders Award
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials (APCO) Leadership in Advancing Communications Policy Award (2012)
- National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL) Women Leaders in Technology Award (2012)
- Women in Cable Telecommunications Public Service Award (2011)
- FCBA Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award (2003)
- FCC Gold Medal (2003)
- FCC Chairman's Award (2001)

17. List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

Please see Attachment B.

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (*e.g.,* PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

Please see Attachment C.

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

Please see Attachment D.

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an "alias" or "handle", including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

- LinkedIn: Anna Gomez, *www.linkedin.com/in/anna-gomez-2288ba19,* active
- Twitter: Anna Gomez, @AMG8697, *https://twitter.com/AMG8697,* active
- Facebook: Anna Gomez, 4annagomez, *www.facebook.com/4annagomez/,* active
- Instagram: Anna Gomez, annagomez5262, *https://www.instagram.com/annagomez5262/?igshid=YmMyMTA2M2,* active
- Mastodon: AMG, AMG8697@mastodon.social, *https://mstdn.social/@AMG8697,* active
- Post: Anna Gomez, @amg8697, *https://post.news/@/amg8697,* active

21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

- Testimony on the Digital Television Transition before the U.S. House of Representatives Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet, Committee on Energy and Commerce (March 26, 2009)
- Testimony on NTIA Reauthorization before the U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (February 2, 2017)
- Testimony on Strengthening Our Communications Networks: Legislation to Connect and Protect before the U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Energy & Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology (May 24, 2022)

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

I am honored to have been nominated to be a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission because I truly love public service and believe I can make a difference for all consumers. I have served in various capacities at the State Department, FCC, NTIA, Congress, and the White House for approximately 18 years, and the lure of public service keeps pulling me back. I have been an effective leader throughout my career, and believe I can contribute positively, with all consumers in mind, to the FCC's agenda. Given my broad government experience effectively crafting and implementing telecommunications policy, I would be strategic, decisive, and passionate in representing consumers and the public interest.

Strong Policy Background

With my extensive career in telecommunications, I have deep policy expertise that I can bring to bear as a Member of the FCC. I served for 12 years in various roles throughout the FCC, including positions in the Cable (now Media), Common Carrier (now Wireline Competition), and International Bureaus, as well as serving as Senior Legal Advisor to then-Chairman Kennard. I also served a short stint as Democratic Counsel to the Subcommittee on Communication, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, U.S. Senate, and served as Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator of NTIA. Currently, I serve as Senior Advisor at the Department of State, where I am leading U.S. preparations for the World Radiocommunication Conference. With this extensive background, I believe I have a broad view of communications policy.

I have served three times in the private sector. I started out my career as an associate at Arnold & Porter, where I worked on non-telecom matters; I was Vice President for State and Federal Government Affairs at Sprint for three years, and, at Wiley Rein, I counseled clients on telecom and unmanned aircraft matters for nine years. My private sector experience strengthens my ability to serve as a policymaker. Through serving in the private sector, I have gained a keen understanding of what motivates the telecommunications industry. I understand the impact of—and companies' ability to implement—regulatory requirements. I also understand the importance of competition and enabling innovation—for all parties, not just incumbents.

Importance of Stakeholder Outreach

In my approximately 18 years at NTIA, the White House, the Hill, and now the State Department, I have had the opportunity to work with a number of domestic and international legislative and regulatory bodies. These include Congressional committees, Federal agencies, state regulators, public safety entities, governors, mayors, tribal authorities, and international regulators. I have also negotiated policy outcomes among numerous government bodies.

I also understand the need to reach out and understand the views of all stakeholders on existing and proposed policies. Understanding the impact of practices and proceedings on stakeholders—consumers, civil society, government bodies, industry—is critical to effective policy making. If confirmed as a Commissioner, I will devote significant time to meeting with stakeholders throughout the country to hear and understand their perspectives.

Policy Commitments

If confirmed as a Commissioner, in addition to supporting diversity in communications policy, I will also advocate for: strong consumer protection, including ensuring consumers benefit from free and open Internet protections and preserving competitive policies; vigilance in ensuring that any industry consolidation subject to the FCC's review does not harm consumers or competition and benefits the public interest; supporting policies to ensure that everyone in the country has access to affordable and ubiquitous broadband and voice communications; supporting effective and pro-competitive spectrum policies, including allocating both licensed and unlicensed spectrum to unleash continued innovations; ensuring firm and fair enforcement of the Commission's rules; advocating for and advancing policies so public safety first responders and communicators have the tools they need to keep communities and themselves safe; and encouraging and preserving diverse voices in the media.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confirmed, one of my key responsibilities will be to work with the Chair, my fellow Commissioners, and the Office of the Inspector General to protect taxpayer dollars against waste, fraud, and abuse of any FCC programs, and to ensure that taxpayer dollars are spent efficiently and effectively.

I have managed several large organizations, including as Deputy Chief of the International Bureau at the FCC and as Acting Administrator and Deputy Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and believe those skills would help to ensure that the FCC has proper management and accounting controls.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

1) *Universal Access to Broadband:* While Congress has given the FCC many important tools to close the digital divide, there is still much work to be done to ensure that every American, regardless of geography (or income), has access to high-speed broadband. This includes ensuring support is coordinated across relevant federal, state, and tribal agencies to target those in most need of assistance, collecting timely and accurate data regarding the current state of broadband deployment, and being good stewards of taxpayer dollars through reducing waste, fraud, and abuse.
2) *Keeping Broadband Affordable:* Deploying broadband to every American is only half the battle. Ensuring those Americans adopt broadband is the other half. One of the biggest challenges facing broadband adoption is the lack of affordable, quality options for high-speed broadband services for low-income households. While Congress has given the FCC an incredibly important tool in the form of the Affordable Connectivity Program, a program on which millions of Americans now rely, the possibility that its funding may run out by Spring of 2024 will pose a serious challenge for consumers and for the FCC.
3) *Maintaining U.S. Global Leadership by Adopting a Spectrum Strategy to Meet Today's and Tomorrow's Needs:* Managing the Nation's airwaves is always challenging given how intertwined they are with innovation and economic growth in the global economy. Spectrum enables many services on which Americans rely every day, like mobile broadband, remote learning, communicating on airplanes and ships, and GPS. That means ensuring sufficient spectrum for existing and new commercial technologies, such as 5G, 6G, Wi-Fi, and satellites. It also means coordinating effectively with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) to ensure Federal users of spectrum have sufficient resources to support the agencies' core mis-

sions. The FCC must maintain strong working relationships with all stakeholders, including the NTIA and other Federal agencies, to ensure that technical issues regarding harmful interference are identified and addressed early, that testing is conducted in a consensus manner, and that any repurposing of existing spectrum is done effectively and efficiently.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the Federal Communication Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain. No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the Federal Communication Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the Federal Communication Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the Federal Communication Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement that I have entered into with the Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official. I am not aware of any other potential conflicts of interest.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

In June 2022, I had one phone call with two Senators' personal staff on behalf of a wireless carrier regarding modifications to the "CCM Next Generation Telecommunications Act" draft bill. I am not a registered lobbyist and my conversation fell below the threshold for registered lobbying.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:

a. Provide the name of court, agency, association, committee, or group;

b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;

c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;

d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

No.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain. No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

Not applicable.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority? Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

Attachment A

ANNA M. GOMEZ

[redacted]

EXPERIENCE

U.S. Department of State **January 2023 – Present**
Senior Advisor for International Information and Communications Policy

Leading U.S. preparations for the International Telecommunication Union World Radiocommunication Conference 2023 (WRC-23).

Retired **July 2022 – January 2023**

- Advisory Board, US Ignite
- Advisory Board, Silicon Flatirons

Wiley Rein, LLP **2013-June 2022**
Partner

Advised a broad cross-section of the industry on the business implications of regulatory policy and represents these entities before the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the administration on regulatory, policy, and transactional matters related to domestic and international telecommunications.

- Advised clients on regulatory obligations before the FCC, including before the International, Wireline Competition, Consumer and Government Affairs, and Wireless Bureaus.
- Counseled and analyzed U.S. and international regulation governing unmanned aircraft systems, including spectrum licensing and allocation matters before the FCC, the National and Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA), and the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
- Advised clients on NTIA matters, including FirstNet, public safety communications, Internet policy, governance and domain names, and federal use of spectrum.

National Telecommunications and Information Administration,
U.S. Department of Commerce **2009-2013**

Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information

Developed and advocated communications and information policy on behalf of the Administration before the U.S. Congress, private industry, other Federal agencies, state and local governments, foreign governments, international organizations, and private organizations.

Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC **1997-1999**
Chief and Deputy Chief

Developed domestic telecommunications policy regarding local competition, access to telecommunications services, and protection of the fixed telephone network. Led a multi-disciplinary team of attorneys, engineers, economists, specialists, and support staff.

- Oversaw reform of Part 68 equipment registration rules and numbering administration.

National Economic Council, White House **1997**
Deputy Chief of Staff

Advised the Director regarding U.S. telecommunications policy and issues related to Hispanic education. Assisted with National Economic Council operations.

Subcommittee on Communication, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, U.S. Senate **1996-1997**
Democratic Counsel

Advised Senators and staff on domestic and international telecommunications policy, including foreign ownership restrictions, universal service, and liquor advertising.

FCC **1994-1996**
Counsel to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
Attorney, Consumer Protection Division, Cable Services Bureau

Reviewed orders for legal sufficiency and coordinated with other FCC Offices and Bureaus. Met with Commissioners' advisors to facilitate review and adoption of orders. Wrote and edited responses to Congressional inquiries.

- Served as Federal Staff Chair of the Federal-State Universal Service Joint Board.

Arnold & Porter **1992-1994**
Associate

Prepared legal memoranda and portions of briefs on issues that included product liability, corporate compliance, administrative procedure, and legislation. Participated in discovery and other trial preparation functions.

- Coordinated mentoring program for Latino law students.

Network Services Division, Common Carrier Bureau, FCC **1997-1999**
Chief and Deputy Chief

Developed domestic telecommunications policy regarding local competition, access to telecommunications services, and protection of the fixed telephone network. Led a multi-disciplinary team of attorneys, engineers, economists, specialists, and support staff.

- Oversaw reform of Part 68 equipment registration rules and numbering administration.

National Economic Council, White House **1997**
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Advised the Director regarding U.S. telecommunications policy and issues related to Hispanic education. Assisted with National Economic Council operations.

Subcommittee on Communication, Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, U.S. Senate **1996-1997**
Democratic Counsel

Advised Senators and staff on domestic and international telecommunications policy, including foreign ownership restrictions, universal service, and liquor advertising.

FCC **1994-1996**
Counsel to the Chief, Common Carrier Bureau
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Arnold & Porter **1992-1994**
Associate

Prepared legal memoranda and portions of briefs on issues that included product liability, corporate compliance, administrative procedure, and legislation. Participated in discovery and other trial preparation functions.

- Coordinated mentoring program for Latino law students.

EDUCATION

J.D., National Law Center, George Washington University
* *Journal of International Law and Economics*

B.A., Pennsylvania State University
* *Cum Laude*

RECOGNITION AND AWARDS

- Penn State Alumni Fellows Award
- Association of Public Safety Communications Officials Leadership in Advancing Communications Policy Award
- Imagen Latina Leaders Award
- National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women (NOBEL) Women Leaders in Technology Award
- Women in Cable Telecommunications Public Service Award
- FCBA Foundation Volunteer of the Year Award
- FCC Gold Medal
- FCC Chairman's Award

OTHER

- Conversational Spanish
- Hispanic Bar Association of D.C.
  * Former member of Board of Directors
- Federal Communications Bar Association
  * Former member of Executive Committee
  * Former member of Board of Federal Communications Bar Association Foundation
  * Former member of Nominations Committee
- Admitted to D.C. Bar
- Admitted to Maryland Bar (Inactive status)

ATTACHMENT B

List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

I have done my best to identify all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications I have authored, either individually or with others, including through a thorough review of personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. Despite my searches, there may be other materials I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

1. NTIA Blog, Spotlight on Commerce: Anna M. Gomez, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information (September 28, 2011), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2011/spotlight-commerce-anna-m-gomez-deputy-assistant-secretary-communications-and-information*
2. NTIA Blog, Report from the Field: A Broadband Bridge to Puerto Rico (November 29, 2011), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2011/report-field-broadband-bridge-puerto-rico*
3. NTIA Blog, The Critical Role Broadband Plays in Today's Economy (date unknown), *The Critical Role Broadband Plays in Today's Economy | BTOP/SBI Archived Grant Program (doc.gov)*
4. NTIA Blog, D.C. Adult Learners Prepare for Success in the Digital Economy (April 21, 2011), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2011/dc-adult-learners-prepare-success-digital-economy*
5. NTIA Blog, Building Opportunities for Latino Businesses (May 26, 2011), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2011/building-opportunities-latino-businesses*
6. NTIA Blog, Building A Competitive Nation with Empowered And Engaged Latino Communities (date unknown), *Building a Competitive Nation with Empowered and Engaged Latino Communities | BTOP/SBI Archived Grant Program (doc.gov)*
7. NTIA Blog, Supporting our First Responders' Communications Needs (March 15, 2012) *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2012/supporting-our-first-responders-communications-needs*
8. NTIA Blog, Driving broadband adoption in the Latino community (July 6, 2012), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/blog/2012/driving-broadband-adoption-latino-community*
9. Wiley Rein, NTIA Mobile Apps Privacy Process Moves Forward (July 29, 2013), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-2786.html*
10. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Deployable Aerial Communications Architecture Request for Information (August 15, 2013), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-2806.html*
11. Wiley Rein, Mobile Apps May Get New Privacy Notices (August 2013), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-newsletters-item-4680.html*
12. Wiley Rein, Cyber Policy Developments at NIST and Elsewhere Preview Busy Fall (August 29, 2013), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-2814.html*
13. Wiley Rein, NTIA Petition for Rulemaking on Mobile Device Unlocking (September 24, 2013), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-2831.html*
14. Wiley Rein, NIST Releases Preliminary Cybersecurity Framework for Public Comment (October 22, 2013), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-2873.html*
15. Wiley Rein, NIST's Final Cybersecurity Framework Will Drive Oversight and Enforcement (February 13, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-2981.html*
16. Wiley Rein, U.S. Department of Defense Releases Strategy for Addressing Spectrum Scarcity Through More Efficient and Shared Usage of Spectrum Resources (February 21, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-2994.html*
17. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Establishes Preliminary Strategic Roadmap and Recommends Active Stakeholder Input (March 12, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3027.html*

18. Wiley Rein, FAA Unmanned Aircraft Systems Test Sites (April 1, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3062.html*
19. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Releases Final NEPA Compliance Policies and Procedures (April 30, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3135.html*
20. Wiley Rein, NTIA Seeks Comment on Big Data Impacts (June 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-newsletters-item-5016.html*
21. Wiley Rein, Three-Part Article Series Considers Safety Implications As FAA Issues Guidance on Model Aircraft (June 25, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3204.html*
22. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Releases Two Key Requests for Comment (September 18, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3283.html*
23. Wiley Rein, UAS Takes Flight for Film Companies (September 25, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3290.html*
24. Wiley Rein, UAS Hearing Before the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure's Subcommittee on Aviation (December 11, 2014), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3385.html*
25. Wiley Rein, FAA Grants UAS Exemptions for Real Estate Photography and Precision Agriculture (January 7, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3416.html*
26. Wiley Rein, Summary of the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Operation and Certification of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (February 18, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3465.html*
27. Urgent Communications, FCC takes initial steps to unlock AWS–3 spectrum auction revenue for public-safety initiatives (February 29, 2015), *http://urgentcomm.com/blog/fcc-takes-initial-steps-unlock-aws-3-spectrum-auction-revenue-public-safety-initiatives*
28. Wiley Rein, FCC's Updated International Reporting Requirements in Effect for 2015 Reports—Changes Require Reporting by New Entities (February 24, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3474.html*
29. Wiley Rein, President Obama Issues Presidential Memorandum on UAS Privacy (February 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-newsletters-item-5246.html*
30. Wiley Rein, Summary of NPRM on Operation and Certification of Small Unmanned Aircraft Systems (February 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-newsletters-item-5247.html*
31. Wiley Rein, NTIA Requests Comment on UAS Privacy Comments (March 5, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3487.html*
32. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Releases Second Public Notice Seeking Comment On Its Legal Authority (March 9, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3491.html*
33. Urgent Communications, Congressional hearing on FirstNet offers fresh insight into potential opportunities, challenges for commercial partners (March 12, 2015), *http://urgentcomm.com/blog/congressional-hearing-firstnet-offers-fresh-insight-potential-opportunities-challenges-commerci*
34. Wiley Rein, FAA Streamlines Airspace Authorizations for Section 333 Exemption Holders (March 24, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3507.html*
35. Wiley Rein, FAA Grounding Commercial UAS on Websites, YouTube (March 27, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3506.html*
36. Wiley Rein, FAA Moves to Summary Grant Process for UAS Petitions (April 14, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3668.html*
37. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Releases Third Public Notice Seeking Comment On The Scope Of "Public Safety Entity" (April 27, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-3544.html*
38. Wiley Rein, NTIA Held its First Multistakeholder Meeting to Craft Unmanned Aircraft Systems Privacy, Transparency, and Accountability Best Practices (August 5, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-newsletters-item-5411.html*

39. Wiley Rein, FAA Proposes Record $1.9 Million Civil Penalty Against UAS Operator SkyPan International (October 6, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-FAA_Proposes_Record_19_Million_Civil_Penalty_Against_UAS_Operator_SkyPan_International.html*
40. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Releases Special Notice Seeking Comment On Proposed Cyber Security Solution (October 6, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-FirstNet_Releases_Special_Notice_Seeking_Comment_On_Proposed_Cyber_Security_Solution.html*
41. Wiley Rein, FAA Announces UAS Registration Task Force, Issues Request for Information (October 21, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-FAA_Announces_UAS_Registration_Task_Force_Issues_Request_for_Information.html*
42. Wiley Rein, FAA Announces Next Steps for UAS Registration: Receipt of Task Force Recommendations, Issuance of Interim Final Rule, and Opportunity for Public Comment (November 20, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-FAA_Announces_Next_Steps_for_UAS_Registration.html*
43. Wiley Rein, FirstNet Board Approves Final Request For Proposal; Release Expected in Early January (December 9, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-FirstNet_Board_Approves_Final_Request_For_Proposal.html*
44. Wiley Rein, FAA Publishes Interim Final Rule on UAS Registration, Seeks Public Comment (December 14, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/newsroom-articles-FAA-Publishes-Interim-Final-Rule-UAS-Registration-Seeks-Public-Comment.html*
45. Wiley Rein, FAA Releases Fact Sheet on Scope of Federal Authority over UAS (December 18, 2015), *http://www.wileyrein.com/ newsroom-articles-FAA_Releases_Fact_Sheet_on_Scope_of_ Federal_Authority_over_UAS.html*
46. Federal Communications Law Journal, Reflecting on Twenty Years Under the Telecommunications Act of 1996: A Collection of Essays on Implementation (2015–2016), *http://www.fclj.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/68.1.1-Reflecting-on-the-1996-Act.pdf*
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76. Aspen Institute, "Toward a National Spectrum Strategy" (2022) (contributor), *https://www.aspeninstitute.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/09/Spectrum-Report_9_13_22.pdf*

ATTACHMENT C

List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (e.g., PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

I have done my best to identify all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations that I have given on topics relevant to the position for which I have been nominated, including through a thorough review of personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. Despite my searches, there may be other materials I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

Copies of remarks are available at Appendix A.

1. Telecommunications Regulatory Commission—Jordan, Professional Development Workshop, Dead Sea, Jordan, (March 24, 2004), remarks unavailable, *http://www.itu.int/ITU-D/treg/Events/Seminars/2004/Jordan/documents/ProfDevWshp.pdf* (remarks on universal service and enforcement)
2. University of Brasilia Law School Center on Law and Regulation, Brasilia, Brazil (2005), *http://www.docs.ndsr.org/docslidesConferenciaPerspectivasdasTelecomunicacoesnasAmericaseEuropa2005EUA.pdf,* presentation attached
3. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference, Washington, DC (2009), remarks unavailable (remarks on the effects of broadband on the Latino community)
4. Women's Wireless Leadership Forum, Nashville, TN (2009), remarks unavailable *https://www.md7.com/2015/09/wwlf-promotes-the-exchange-of-ideas-and-information/* (remarks regarding my career and factors contributing to my success)
5. MMTC Access to Capital and Telecommunications Conference, Washington, DC, (July 21, 2009), remarks unavailable
6. PCIA Wireless Infrastructure Show, Nashville, TN (September 2009), remarks unavailable, *http://www.fiercewireless.com/wireless/ntia-to-begin-awarding-broadband-stimulus-grants-november* (remarks on NTIA broadband grants)
7. National Conference of Black Mayors Annual Convention, Las Vegas, NV (October 2009), remarks unavailable (I can't recall the subject of my remarks, but it likely was NTIA's broadband programs)
8. Family Online Safety Institute, Building a Culture of Responsibility from Online Safety to Digital Citizenship, Washington, DC (November 5, 2009), remarks unavailable, *file:///C:/Users/agomez/Downloads/2009_Annual_Conference-Agenda.docx.pdf* (remarks on broadband initiatives)
9. OECD Workshop on Common Challenges and Shared Solutions: Good Governance in Information Society Strategies, Madrid, Spain (November 18, 2009), remarks unavailable (remarks on the Obama Administration's strategy for the promotion of broadband)
10. Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Citizenship Education Fund Annual Media and Telecommunications Symposium, Washington, DC (November 20, 2009), remarks unavailable (remarks regarding innovative policies to spur deployment of broadband services to all Americans, and the broadband grants)
11. Consumer Electronics Show, Las Vegas, NV (January 7, 2010), remarks unavailable, *http://www.tellusventure.com/blog/broadband-stimulus-grant-update-first-round-still-under-review-second-round-likely-to-slip-a-bit/,* (remarks on NTIA broadband grants)
12. Catholic University Columbus School of Law and FCBA, Implementing the National Broadband Plan: Perspectives from Government, Industry, and Consumers, Washington DC, (February 24, 2010), remarks unavailable, *http://commlaw.cua.edu/res/docs/Symposium-Agenda-2-12-10.pdf* (remarks on NTIA broadband initiatives)

13. Talking Points for Assistant Secretary Anna Gomez, Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee, Washington, D.C. (March 4, 2010), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/files/ntia/meetings/talkingpoints_annagomez_03042010.pdf*
14. Catholic University Columbus School of Law and FCBA, Spectrum Strategies, Washington, DC (March 15, 2010), remarks unavailable (remarks on Obama Administration efforts to identify spectrum for commercial wireless)
15. New Media Entrepreneurship Conference, Washington, DC (May 6, 2010), remarks unavailable (I can't recall the subject of my remarks, they likely were about NTIA initiatives)
16. National Association for Latino Community Builders Building Wealth in American Communities: Colaboramos, Invertimos y Prosperamos, San Antonio, TX (August 12, 2010), remarks unavailable (remarks on broadband)
17. Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute Public Policy Conference, Washington, DC (September 13, 2010), remarks unavailable (remarks on NTIA's efforts to address broadband adoption in the Hispanic community)
18. New Mexico Broadband and Smart Grid Summit, New Mexico (August 16, 2010), remarks unavailable (remarks regarding NTIA's broadband programs)
19. LULAC National Convention, Albuquerque, NM (2010), remarks unavailable (I cannot recall the content of my remarks, but they likely were about the importance of broadband to the Hispanic community)
20. State of the Mobile Net Conference, Washington, DC (April 21, 2010), remarks unavailable, *http://www.netcaucus.org/conference/2010/sotmn/agenda.shtml* (remarks on the disruptive pace of mobile net evolution)
21. New Mexico Broadband and Smart Grid Summit, Moriarty, NM (August 16, 2010), remarks unavailable, *https://www.tomudall.senate.gov/news/press-releases/udall-and-bingaman-to-host-new-mexico-broadband-and-smart-grid-summit*
22. Public Safety Broadband Applications & IP Based Solutions Meeting, Washington, DC, (September 1, 2010), remarks unavailable, *http://www.npstc.org/documents/PSApplicationsIPBasedSolutionsMeeting100901.pdf*
23. Keynote Remarks of Deputy Assistant Secretary Gomez at the Congressional Black Caucus Institution's 21st Century Council Broadband Forum, Washington, DC (September 14, 2010), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/speechtestimony/2010/keynote-remarks-deputy-assistant-secretary-gomez-congressional-black-caucus-ins*
24. Remarks of Deputy Assistant Secretary Gomez at the Safe Internet Alliance Privacy Workshop, Washington, DC (September 29, 2010), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/speechtestimony/2010/remarks-deputy-assistant-secretary-gomez-safe-internet-alliance-privacy-worksho*
25. Family Online Safety Institute 2010 Annual Conference, Washington, DC (November 9, 2010), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fosi.org/events/2010-annual-conference/* (remarks regarding the Online Safety and Technology Working Group)
26. Aspen Institute, Washington, DC (December 16, 2010), remarks unavailable, *https://www.aspeninstitute.org/events/aspen-institute-lunch-roundtable-communications/* (roundtable on issues in transatlantic communications)
27. Minority, Media, & Telecom Council (MMTC) Broadband & Social Justice Summit, Washington, DC (January 20, 2011), remarks unavailable, *http://s3.documentcloud.org/documents/246367/mmtc-broadband-amp-social-justice-summit-january-2.pdf* (remarks on the Obama Administration's broadband priorities)
28. National Institute of Justice 2011 Conference, June 20, 2011 (Washington, DC), NIJ Audio Transcript: *https://nij.gov/multimedia/pages/audio-nijconf2011-national-broadband-plan-transcript.aspx*
29. MMTC Access to Capital and Telecommunications Conference, Washington, DC (July 21, 2011), remarks unavailable, *http://mmtconline.org/mmtc25/speakers/* (remarks on broadband adoption)
30. Puerto Rico Telecom Conference, San Juan, PR (November 9, 2011), remarks unavailable, *http://www.camarapr.org/TELECOM/docs/Telecom_Agenda_2011.pdf* (remarks on President Obama's broadband programs)

31. Rainbow PUSH Coalition and Citizenship Education Fund Telecommunications & International Affairs Symposium, Washington, DC (November 18, 2011), remarks unavailable (remarks regarding broadband)
32. National Public Safety Telecommunications Council, Alexandria Virginia (2012), *http://www.npstc.org/download.jsp?tableId=37&column=217&id=2385&file=FirstNet_Update_120613.pdf&page=D%20Block%20News*
33. National Organization of Black Elected Legislative Women Annual Congressional Broadband Technology and Media Forum, Washington, DC (January 25, 2012), remarks unavailable (remarks on the impact of broadband on healthcare, education, jobs and economic opportunities)
34. MMTC Broadband and Social Justice Policy Summit, Washington, DC (January 26, 2012), remarks unavailable (remarks regarding the Obama Administration's broadband agenda)
35. Anna Gomez, Deputy Administrator NTIA, Introduces Out Connect—Infrastructure for the 21st Century, Washington DC (January 3, 2012) (video) *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K8H53SxouPI&list=PL6DEE3B093A2414D2&index=8*
36. Urgent Communications Webinar on FirstNet, remarks unavailable (March 2012), *http://urgentcomm.com/networks_and_systems/news/public-safety-network-timeline-20120320*
37. A Public Safety Broadband Network Built To Last, Broomfield, CO (March 6, 2012) *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/speechtestimony/2012/remarks-deputy-assistant-secretary-gomez-pscr-demonstration-network-stakeholder, https://www.rrmediagroup.com/News/NewsDetails/NewsID/8020*
38. Public Safety Communications & Electromagnetic Spectrum Auctions, Washington, DC (March 15, 2012), *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/other-publication/2012/public-safety-communications-electromagnetic-spectrum-auctions-slide-deck-pre*
39. EAGLE-Net Alliance Kickoff Event, Denver, CO (April 16, 2012), remarks unavailable, *http://archive.constantcontact.com/fs009/1104865671015/archive/1109594789842.html*
40. FCC Technical Advisory Board for First Responder Interoperability Workshop, Washington, DC (April 23, 2012), remarks unavailable (remarks on recommendations for ensuring the interoperability of the nationwide public safety network)
41. National Association of Chief Information Officers Midyear Conference, Baltimore, MD (May 2012), remarks unavailable (I believe I spoke about FirstNet)
42. National League of Cities webinar, Building a Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network: What Local Leaders Need to Know (June 6, 2012), remarks unavailable, *http://www.nlc.org/article/upcoming-webinar-building-a-nationwide-public-safety-broadband-network*
43. National Governors Association, Preparing for Public Safety Broadband, Leesburg, VA (June 29, 2012), *https://www.nga.org/cms/home/nga-center-for-best-practices/meeting-webcast-materials/page-hsps-meetings-webcasts/col2-content/main-content-list/preparing-for-public-safety-broa.html* (remarks on FirstNet)
44. 2012 NCSL Legislative Summit, Chicago, IL (August 7, 2012), remarks unavailable, *http://www.ncsl.org/documents/standcomm/sccomfc/CFILegislativeSummitAgenda12.pdf* (remarks on FirstNet)
45. MMTC Access to Capital and Telecommunications Policy Conference, Washington, DC (July 19, 2012), remarks unavailable (remarks regarding broadband grants)
46. Remarks by Deputy Assistant Secretary Gomez at the PLI/FCBA Telecommunications Policy & Regulation Institute, Washington, DC (December 14, 2012) *https://www.ntia.doc.gov/Remarks_by_Deputy_Assistant_Secretary_Gomez_at_PLI/FCBA*
47. MMTC Broadband and Social Justice Summit, Washington, DC (January 17, 2013), remarks unavailable, *http://mmtconline.org/bbsj-summit/speakers-2013/* (remarks on Obama Administration broadband programs and telecom policy)
48. Global Forum 2013: Driving the Digital Future: Opportunities for Citizens & Businesses, Trieste—Italy (October 28, 2013), remarks unavailable, *http://globalforum.items-int.com/global-forums/global-forum-2013-driving-the-digi*

tal-future-opportunities-for-citizens-businesses-trieste-italy/ (moderated opening keynote panel on Shaping our Digital Future)

49. Americas Spectrum Management Conference, Washington, DC (November 6, 2013), remarks unavailable, *https://eu-ems.com/agenda.asp?event_id=177&page_id=1470* (moderated panel on meeting the spectrum and smart cities)
50. Women's Emerging Issues Policy Forum Women's Digital Pathway Summit, Amelia Island, FL (January 25, 2014), remarks unavailable (remarks regarding broadband and Internet policy issues on which women have been leaders)
51. Silicon Flatirons, Digital Broadband Migration: After the Internet Protocol Revolution, Boulder, CO (February 9, 2014), remarks unavailable, *https://siliconflatirons.org/events/digital-broadband-migration-after-the-internet-protocol-revolution/*
52. Internet of Things Global Summit: Realizing the Potential of the IoT, Washington, DC, (October 28, 2014), remarks unavailable, *https://eu-ems.com/speakers.asp?event id=221&pageid=1910*
53. Global Forum 2014, Geneva, Switzerland (November 17, 2014), notes attached
54. Silicon Flatirons, Boulder, CO (February 2015), notes from panel on institutional approaches and legal regimes to enable innovation attached
55. Wireless Infrastructure Show, Hollywood Florida (April 29, 2015), presentation on Unmanned Aircraft Systems attached
56. AUVSI Conference, Atlanta, GA (May 7, 2015), presentation on spectrum for Unmanned Aircraft Systems attached
57. Global Forum 2015, Oulu, Finland (September 28, 2015), remarks attached
58. FCBA, Washington, DC (November 16, 2015), presentation on spectrum for Unmanned Aircraft Systems attached
59. Fiber to the Home Council Webinar (February 2016), presentation on FirstNet attached
60. The Year Ahead in Drone Innovation, Washington, DC (March 16 2016), remarks unavailable, *https://itif.org/events/ 2016/03/16/year-ahead-drone-innovation* (remarks on unmanned aircraft regulations)
61. IWCE Expo, Las Vegas, NV (March 22, 2016), *https://www.rcrwireless.com/20160323/network-infrastructure/firstnet-rfp-opportunity-assessed-at-iwce-2016-tag6* (presentation attached)
62. Wireless Infrastructure Show, Dallas, TX (May 2016), presentation on the Internet of Things attached
63. National Homeland Security Conference, Tampa, FL (June 2016), presentation of Public Unmanned Aircraft Systems attached
64. Silicon Flatirons, Spectrum: Next Generation Interference Resolution and Enforcement, Boulder, CO (September 15, 2016), notes attached, *https://siliconflatirons.org/events/spectrum-next-generation-interference-resolution-and-enforcement/, https://siliconflatirons.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/12/Spectrum-Enforcement-Conference-Report.pdf*
65. FCC, Washington, DC (September 30, 2016), Hispanic Heritage Month remarks attached
66. IWCE Expo, Las Vegas, NV (March 31, 2017), *http://urgentcomm.com/public-safety-broadbandfirstnet/iwce-panel-preparation-key-states-making-good-opt-inopt-out-decision* (slides attached)
67. IWCE Expo, Las Vegas, NV (March 31, 2017), Aerial Communications presentation attached
68. FCBA Annual Seminar, Building Our Networks: Lessons Learned from Existing Broadband Investment Programs and Thoughts on Future Funding, Farmington, PA (May 5, 2017), remarks unavailable, *http://www.fcba.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/2017-Annual-Seminar-Agenda-4-4-17.pdf*
69. CLE Seminar: FirstNet: Developments, Challenges, and Opportunities in the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, Washington, DC (May 18, 2017), *http://www.fcba.org/events/cle-seminar-firstnet-developments-challenges-opportunities-nationwide-public-safety-broadband-network/,* presentation unavailable
70. Wiley Connected Podcast, "A discussion on drone policy issues with DJI's Brendan Schulman" (July 8, 2020), *https://soundcloud.com/wileyconnected/a-discussion-on-drone-tech-policy-issues-with-djis-brendan-schulman*

71. Wiley Connected Podcast, "UAS for First Responders & Enterprises: A Discussion with FirstiZ Founder Phil Burks" (June 30, 2020), *https://soundcloud.com/wileyconnected/uas-for-first-responders-enterprises-a-discussion-with-firstiz-founder-phil-burks*
72. Silicon Flatirons, Fireside Chat with NTIA Administrator Alan Davidson (February 21, 2023) *https://www.google.com/url?client=internal-element-cse&cx=016005321760733004813:ccotai7l2d0&q=https://www.colorado.edu/law/2023/02/21/silicon-flatirons-conference-explores-internets-midlife-crisis&sa=U&ved=2ahUKEwi9gdaFmOn9AhXIF1kFHQDrCG4QFnoECAMQAg&usg=AOvVaw3rZB0vHGbhz08-QNrEb4ZZ*
73. Silicon Flatirons, 3D Wireless: The Promise and Challenges of Next-Generation Space and Airborne Wireless Systems (October 4, 2017) *3D Wireless: The Promise and Challenges of Next-Generation . . .*
74. Federal Communications Bar Association panel, "Connecting Communities: Digital Equity & Closing the Digital Divide" (April 2, 2022), remarks unavailable
75. FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment, Tech and Communications Diversity Opportunity Symposium and Virtual Fair (April 28, 2021) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/04/tech-and-communications-diversity-opportunity-symposium-and-virtual-fair*
76. Federal Communications Bar Association, Celebrating International Girls in ICT Day Panel (April 22, 2021) *https://www.fcba.org/events/celebrating-international-girls-ict-day/*
77. Co-Moderator, Federal Communications Bar Association, Women's History Month Fireside Chat with FCC, FTC, NTIA Government Leaders (March 29, 2021), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fcba.org/events/womens-history-month-fireside-chat-fcc-ftc-ntia-government-leaders/*
78. Welcoming Remarks, FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment, Tech Startup Roundtable (March 24, 2021) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/03/tech-startup-roundtable*
79. Federal Communications Bar Association, Fostering Equity, Inclusion and Equality in the Workplace Panel Discussion Panel (March 9, 2021), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fcba.org/events/artificial-intelligence-machine-learning-robotics-committee-lunch-learn-2/*
80. Chair, FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Meeting (June 24, 2021) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/06/advisory-committee-diversity-and-digital-empowerment-june-2021*
81. Chair, Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Meeting (February 11, 2021) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/02/advisory-committee-diversity-and-digital-empowerment-february-2021*
82. Welcoming Remarks, FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Virtual Summit, "A Road Map to Tech Jobs" (January 15, 2021) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/01/road-map-tech-jobs-virtual-summit*
83. Welcoming and Closing Remarks, FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Access to Capital Virtual Symposium, "Path to Media Ownership and Sustainability" (November 6, 2020) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/11/path-media-ownership-and-sustainability-symposium-access-capital-small*
84. Welcoming Remarks, FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment, Tech Supplier Diversity Opportunity Showcase (October 23, 2020) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/10/tech-supplier-diversity-opportunity-showcase*
85. Chair, Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Meeting (September 18, 2020) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/09/advisory-committee-diversity-and-digital-empowerment-september-2020*
86. Introductory Remarks, FCC Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment, Tech Supplier Diversity Opportunity Showcase Workshop Examining the Role of Libraries on Broadband Adoption and Literacy (August 3, 2020) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/08/workshop-examining-role-libraries-broadband-adoption-and-literacy*
87. Chair, Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Meeting (September 18, 2020) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/04/advisory-committee-diversity-and-digital-empowerment-april-2020*

88. Federal Communications Bar Association, Furthering U.S. Drone Operations: An Update on FAA and Spectrum Policy Developments (June 15, 2020), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fcba.org/events/cle-webinar-furthering-u-s-drone-operations-update-faa-spectrum-policy-developments/*
89. Chair, Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Meeting (October 30, 2019) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/10/advisory-committee-diversity-and-digital-empowerment-october-2019*
90. Chair, Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment Meeting (June 24, 2019) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/06/advisory-committee-diversity-and-digital-empowerment-meeting-june-2019*
91. Federal Communications Bar Association Women's Summit panel, "Diversity as a Leadership Priority" (January 29, 2020), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fcba.org/events/fcba-inaugural-womens-summit-january-29/*
92. Federal Communications Bar Association CLE: Drones, Safety and Security: How Federal, State and Local Agencies are Dealing with Current UAS Challenges (April 22, 2019) *https://www.fcba.org/events/cle-drones-safety-security-federal-state-local-agencies-dealing-current-uas-challenges/*
93. Innovation and Access Working Group Workstream 1 Report before the Communications Equity and Diversity Council (February 23, 2022) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/02/communications-equity-and-diversity-council-meeting-february-2022*
94. Fireside Chat with Ethan Lucarelli, Chief, FCC, Office of International Affairs (April 11, 2023) *https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/04/launch-fcc-office-international-affairs-and-space-bureau*
95. Federal Communications Bar Association CLE: From the Difficult Clients to Government Service: What Do the Ethics Rules Require? (October 25, 2018), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fcba.org/events/cle-difficult-clients-government-service-ethics-rules-require/*
96. Federal Communications Bar Association CLE Seminar: FirstNet: Developments, Challenges, and Opportunities in the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network (May 18, 2018), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fcba.org/events/cle-seminar-firstnet-developments-challenges-opportunities-nationwide-public-safety-broadband-network/*
97. Federal Communications Bar Association, Diversity Committee Brown Bag Lunch Topic: New Administration, New Opportunities? (November 18, 2016), remarks unavailable, *https://www.fcba.org/events/3807/*
98. Federal Communications Bar Association CLE Seminar: The 20th Anniversary of the Telecommunications Act of 1996: A Review (February 16, 2016) *https://www.fcba.org/events/cle-seminar-the-20th-anniversary-of-the-telecommunications-act-of-1996-a-review/*

ATTACHMENT D

List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

I have done my best to identify all public statements I have made over the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which I have been nominated, including through a thorough review of personal files and searches of publicly available electronic databases. Despite my searches, there may be other materials I have been unable to identify, find, or remember. I have located the following:

1. "Anna Gomez today said she was "honored" to be tapped to lead U.S. preparations for this year's International Telecommunication Union's World Radiocommunication Conference (WRC–23). She is expected to be head of the U.S. delegation for the event, according to sources.

   "I am honored to have this opportunity and eager to get to work," Ms. Gomez said in a statement. TR Daily, "Gomez 'Honored' to Be Tapped for WRC–23 Post" (Jan. 27, 2023) (link unavailable)
2. The FCC is unlikely to decide soon on the 5030–5091 MHz, the main band targeted for drones, Wiley's Anna Gomez told an Association for Unmanned Vehicle Systems International virtual conference Tuesday. The FCC hasn't

provided clarity on whether flexible use licenses may be used, Gomez said. In 2019, the FCC sought comment (see 1912270039), per FAA Reauthorization Act Section 374. There's "a full record," yet no indication the FCC is "close" to an NPRM, said Gomez, who worked on the Joe Biden NTIA transition team. An FCC report to Congress last year said the band is likely suitable for UAS (see 2008280060). Communications Daily, "No FCC Quick Decision Seen on Dedicated Drone Spectrum" (May 5, 2021) (link unavailable)

3. "After the [Advisory Committee on Diversity and Digital Empowerment] was asked if the change in FCC leadership would affect recommendations, Chair Anna Gomez of Wiley said the panel has a "bipartisan mission," citing the support from all four commissioners." Communications Daily, "ACDDE to Seek FCC to Support Minority Tax Certificate, Help Libraries" (February 12, 2021) (link unavailable)
4. "Committee Chair Anna Gomez of Wiley Rein said Beasley is interested in meeting with representatives from local and regional banks to spread information about the broadcast business and study financing for new entrants. Beasley, who didn't attend the meeting, is interested in collaborating with other agencies such as Commerce Department's Minority Business Development Agency, Gomez said." Communications Daily, "FCC Diversity Committee Plans to Examine Access to Capital, Diversity in Tech" (October 31, 2019) (link unavailable)
5. "Godfrey and Wiley Rein attorney Anna Gomez said 5G promises higher speeds and capacity and lower latency. Gomez said densified small-cell networks needed local actions on zoning, permits and rights of way. Gomez said the FCC tried to have broad stakeholder representation on its Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, but it's difficult because localities are feeling under attack." Communications Daily, "5G Coming 'Sooner Than People Thought,' Samsung Exec Says; Verizon Eyes 5–6 Cities This Year" (May 7, 2018) (link unavailable)
6. Urgent Communications, "FirstNet is delivering more than we imagined" (September 14, 2017) *https://urgentcomm.com/collections/firstnet-is-delivering-more-than-we-imagined/*
7. "Prospects for major infrastructure legislation are iffy at best, an FCBA conference heard Friday "I think there will be some type of plan. I think broadband will be in the plan," said Wiley Rein attorney Anna Gomez, but she questioned whether there would be funding." Communications Daily, "FCBA Panelists Circumspect to Gloomy About Chances for Major Infrastructure Initiative" (May 8, 2017) (link unavailable)
8. "'As the challenges of Internet-related policies continue to evolve and present themselves, it is critical to have a strong NTIA that can help the U.S. Government represent U.S. interests in setting productive policies that allow for continued innovation and growth in the global digital economy," added Anna M. Gomez, Partner at Wiley Rein LLP and former Acting Administrator at NTIA." U.S. Official News, "Washington:SubCommTech Examines NTIA's Reauthorization and its Role in the 21st Century" (February 2, 2017) (link unavailable)
9. "FirstNet's "independent authority" status puzzled even Federal lawyers during the organization's early days-a fact noted at IWCE 2016 by Anna Gomez, who was NTIA's deputy assistant secretary for communications and information when FirstNet was created in 2012. "We had no idea [what the 'independent authority' description implied]," Gomez said during the "Evolution of FirstNet" workshop. "We thought 'independent authority' meant very independent. It took a lot of discussions with lawyers to figure out 'Well, it's not as independent as you might think.' "That was a little disappointing, to say the least. When we recruited the board members, we said, 'Oh, you'll be independent.' Some of them were less than happy when, eventually, we came back and said, 'Our lawyers are telling us that you still are a Federal entity subject to generally applicable rules and regulations, other than where the statute specifically exempts you from those requirements." Urgent Communications, "Here's the aspect of FirstNet's independence that should matter most to public-safety agencies, potential offerors" (April 19, 2016) *https://urgentcomm.com/collections/heres-the-aspect-of-firstnets-independence-that-should-matter-most-to-public-safety-agencies-potential-offerors/*
10. "'While there has been interest from the wireless carriers, there are non-carriers who also are interested in being primary bidders; for example, some are interested in arbitraging the spectrum," said communications lawyer Anna

Gomez of Wiley Rein. "Other vendors, such as system aggregators, are seriously looking at the opportunity." By setting up a request for proposals that covers all 56 states and territories, FirstNet "is encouraging bidders to partner with other companies, to provide an end-to-end product," Gomez told us. "Bidders will have to have a satellite component, a rural component, apps, devices, besides the traditional infrastructure Lots of parties are talking to one another about potential bids.'" Communications Daily, "Verizon Seen as Unlikely to Pursue Partnership With FirstNet" (January 25, 2016) (link unavailable)

11. "Back when this was just a concept in the [Obama] administration's mind, I think they did not foresee that it would take this long to get to where FirstNet is today," Gomez said. "Then again, back when it was just a concept in the administration's mind, the administration wanted FirstNet to be a federally chartered corporation, not an entity housed within a Federal agency . . . It would have been a non-profit [organization], and it would not have been subject to—for example—the federal-acquisition regulations.

"This was back before the statute was passed. The statute itself created what it called this independent authority housed within NTIA, and it took a long time to figure out what that really meant."

Determining the nature of FirstNet, how it should operate and what type of oversight was appropriate proved to be a challenge, Gomez said.

"In time, all of the lawyers came to the conclusion that FirstNet was a Federal entity subject to rules that are generally applicable to Federal entities, except where the statute states otherwise," she said. "Just coming to that conclusion took a long time, and I think that they're still struggling with trying to figure out how to be an entrepreneurial entity that operates within the strictures of the Federal government."

"I always said this entity was sort of backwards in the way that it was created, although I can see why, in terms of it being a Federal entity," Gomez said. "Normally [with a corporate startup], you get one guy or two guys, they have an idea, they start to develop their idea, they shop it around, and they get some financing. Eventually, they might create a company, go public, and then they'll get a board. All of that takes years; this isn't something that's done in a couple of months."

"When you think of it that way, they're really on par with where a lot of major companies would be, except that it wouldn't be quite so public. It wouldn't be until they start getting financing or try to go public that you would see publicly that someone is trying to put a major entity together. But it is what it is, and FirstNet has had to do everything in a very open manner with a lot of expectations from stakeholders."

"I was really happy to see them put in place a strong consultation process," Gomez said. "I think one of their mistakes early on was not starting out with more consultation and more outreach. Hopefully, they have been able to respond to the criticism of that original time when they did not do more outreach and consultation."

Some of the delays in outreach and consultation may have occurred because FirstNet board members were more focused on clarifying its legal standing as an independent authority under NTIA, but another problem was the lack of staffing in the early days, Gomez said.

"They should have opened the doors and started listening early on, but their instincts were, 'No, let's figure out what we need to do here, and then we'll go out and talk to folks.' But it's easy to Monday-morning quarterback," she said. "NTIA tried to provide as much support as it could, but NTIA's also a very small organization. It was a lack of resources and them trying to get themselves in a place where they felt like they had something to talk about."

. . . Gomez echoed this sentiment, noting that she is eagerly anticipating the release of the draft request for proposal (RFP) by the end of March and a final RFP as early as later this year.

"I really have a lot of confidence in [FirstNet Chairwoman] Sue Swenson and the staff that they have pulled together," Gomez said. "So, I am pleased with the process, although—like everyone else—I'm anxious to see them start to get the RFPs out and really start deploying the network."

"The one thing that I'm hoping is that they don't become so cautious that they . . . slow the progress of the RFP. I'm anxious to see them move forward and

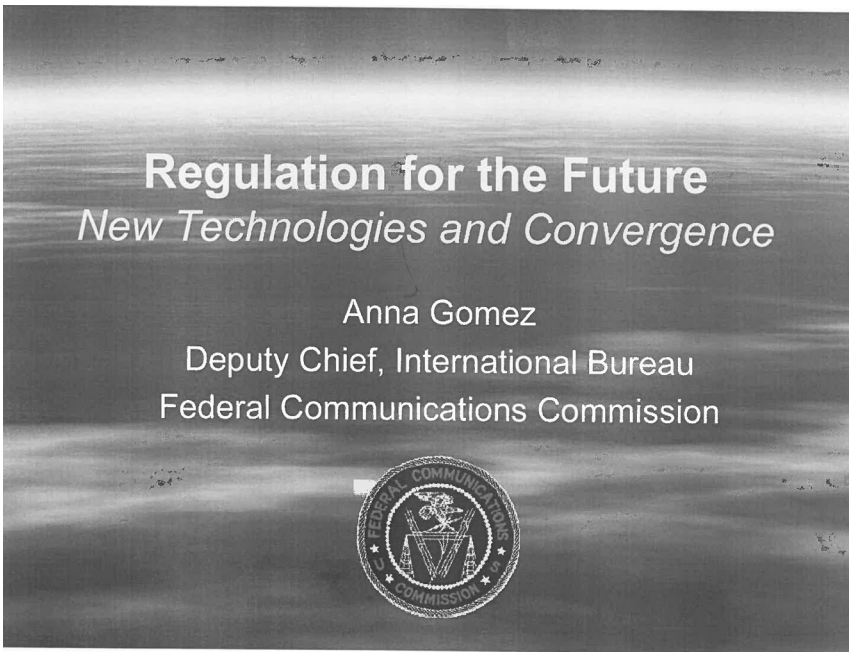
partner with commercial providers in order to get the network deployed as quickly as possible."

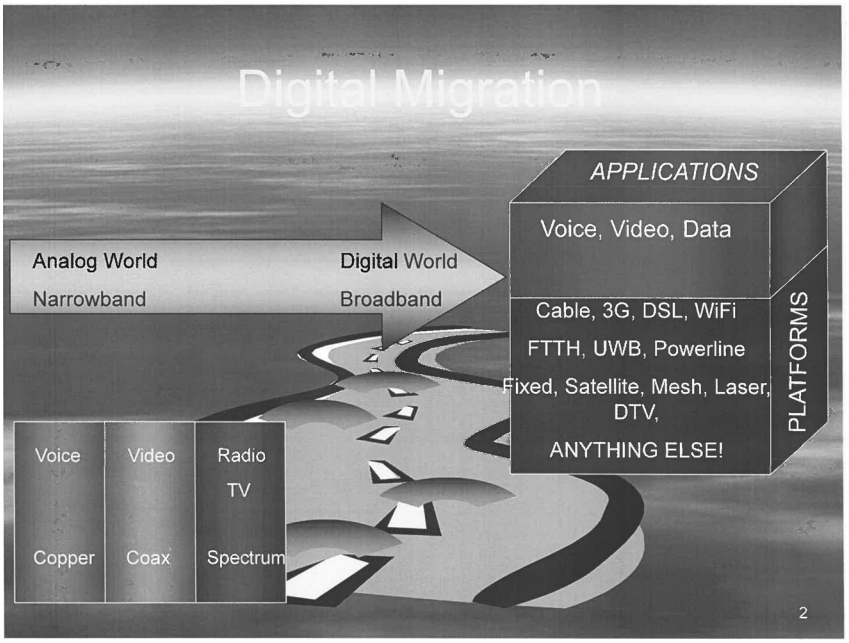
Urgent Communications, "Three years after its creation, it is time for FirstNet to begin making key decisions" (February 24, 2015), *https://urgentcomm.com/collections/three-years-after-its-creation-it-is-time-for-firstnet-to-begin-making-key-decisions/*.

12. "Anna Gomez, former acting administrator and now with Wiley Rein, told Dingell that NTIA staffers tend to be nimble and work well with other entities such as the Department of Transportation and state and local officials. . . . Gomez agreed NTIA would play a good role in coordinating, saying the Executive Branch would be the best coordinator Gomez said that "anything Congress can do to bolster NTIA's position" among other agencies would help. . . . "In my experience, NTIA is a very resource-constrained agency" and its role "is only going to get bigger," Gomez told Pallone, emphasizing the future spectrum needs in terms of staffing and research. Gomez told Rep. Kevin Cramer, R–N.D., spectrum can be important for unmanned aerial systems for command and control, with different needs for different aircraft. Baker told lawmakers the Spectrum Relocation Fund should fund spectrum planning and lauded the quality of NTIA analysis, also commending Congress for helping prompt some of that." Communications Daily, "Democrats Eye NTIA Reauthorization as Vehicle for Spectrum, Vehicle-to-Infrastructure Proposals" (February 3, 2017) (link unavailable)
13. "Panelist Anna Gomez—a former NTIA official and now a partner in the law firm of Wiley Rein—estimated that it will take the FCC and the NTIA six months each to evaluate a state's proposal under a "very aggressive" timetable. In other words, the opt-out state and its vendor could be in limbo for a year or more while waiting for approvals from the FCC and NTIA, with no assurance that either one will be granted." Urgent Communications, "IWCE panel reveals steep hill to climb for states choosing opt-out route" (April 1, 2014) *https://urgentcomm.com/collections/iwce-panel-reveals-steep-hill-to-climb-for-states-choosing-opt-out-route/*
14. "After FirstNet presents a network plan to a state, the governor has 90 days to evaluate whether to opt in or opt out of the FirstNet system, according to Anna Gomez, a partner at the Washington, D.C.-based law firm of Wiley Rein. If the governor chooses to opt in, then FirstNet executes its deployment plans. If the governor chooses to have the state opt out, the state has 180 days to choose a vendor and deliver a plan to the FCC that demonstrates the state's deployment will interoperate with the FirstNet system, according to the law that established FirstNet. If the FCC approves the state's opt-out plan then the plan is submitted to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) which will decide whether the state will be allowed to use the FirstNet spectrum in the 700 MHz band, based on an evaluation of the interoperability and sustainability of the state's proposal, Gomez said. Both the FCC and the NTIA likely will take at least six months to make their evaluations, meaning the winning vendor in an opt-out scenario could wait more than a year to begin work, she said. "If these very aggressive timelines are met, you would see the state move forward sometime in mid- to late-2017, and the same with FirstNet with deployments, if the timelines are met in this very aggressive time schedule," Gomez said." Urgent Communications, "IWCE panel: Preparation key to states making good opt-in/opt-out decision on FirstNet" (March 31, 2014) *https://urgentcomm.com/collections/iwce-panel-preparation-key-to-states-making-good-opt-in-opt-out-decision-on-firstnet/*
15. Interview published in Metropolitan Corporate Counsel, "Former Obama Administration And FCC Official Offers Insight Into Regulation's Impact On Innovation" (June 2013), *https://ccbjournal.com/articles/former-obama-administration-and-fcc-official-offers-insight-regulations-impact-innova*
16. IWCE Urgent Communications, IWCE 2016 Interview—Anna Gomez, Partner at Wiley Rein, LLP (April 19, 2016), *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=r7g7G2zvgzw*

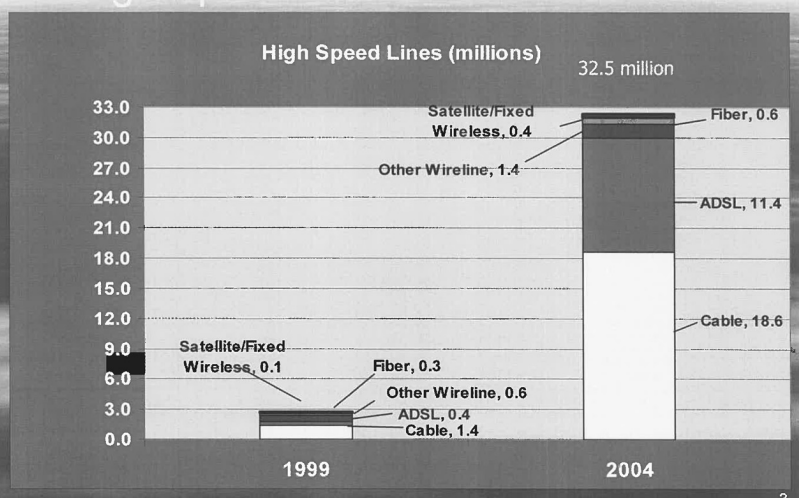
APPENDIX A

DIGITAL COPIES OF PRESENTATIONS AS IDENTIFIED IN ATTACHMENT C





High Speed Line Growth 1999-2004



Source: FCC's High Speed Services for Internet Access Report, 12/04

3

Investment Growth

- One out of three large corporations increased IT spending in 2003.
- Two out three will increase IT spending in 2005
- IT investment may generate 80% of the expected productivity growth through 2010.

4

Wireless Broadband Access Task Force Report Recommendations



WISP radio transmitter equipment on a grain elevator in Grimes, Iowa.

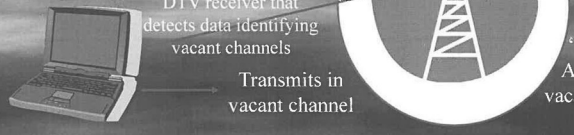
- Promote voluntary frequency coordination
- Increase power limits for unlicensed devices
- Flexible policies
- Increase opportunities for dynamic sharing
- Pro-competitive, "light touch" regime

5

Spectrum Policy Task Force

Example of Innovation - Using "White Space"

- **FCC NPRM (ET Dockets 04-186, 02-380) adopted May 13, 2004**
- **Proposes add'l spectrum for unlicensed using "White Space" in TV Bands below 900 MHz**
- **Spectrum below 900 MHz is particularly well suited for penetrating buildings**



6

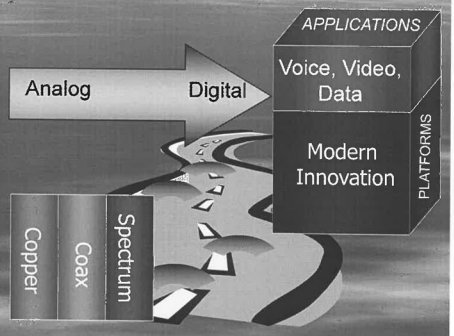
A Light Touch

- 1996 U.S. Telecommunications Act
  - A national policy "to preserve the vibrant and competitive free market that presently exists for the Internet and other interactive computer services unfettered by Federal or State regulation."

7

Conclusion

- Change will continue to pull us along in the Digital Migration
- Key is minimal regulation
- We must create the kind of environment where these changes can flourish



8

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Wireless

NTIA to begin awarding broadband stimulus grants in November

by *Phil Goldstein* | Sep 22, 2009 2:29pm

NASHVILLE--The National National Telecommunications and Information Administration, along with the Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Service, is still sorting through nearly $28 billion worth of applications for broadband stimulus grants--nearly seven times the $4 billion available for the program in this first round. However, the NTIA hopes to begin awarding the first round of its grants in early November, according to an NTIA official.



Anna Gomez, NTIA's deputy assistant secretary for communications and information, discusses the progress of the broadband stimulus plan.

Anna Gomez, NTIA's deputy administrator and deputy assistant secretary for communications and information, said in a keynote address at the PCIA Wireless Infrastructure show here that the agency hopes to have all of the grants announced by the end of the year. Later this fall, the agency will solicit comments on the first round of grants and gather best practices. Then, by late winter, the NTIA is to receive the second round of applications. Currently, the NTIA is deciding whether to combine the second round of applications with a third round, though Gomez emphasized that a decision had not been made either way.

Additionally, the NTIA is set to receive broadband mapping data from states by February, she said. The data will include deployment information, advertised speeds and types of service, she said, which will be used to identify where the greatest needs are for broadband in unserved and underserved areas. By February 2011, the NTIA is expected to have an interactive, national broadband map in place.

"I think our biggest challenge is because this a Recovery Act program, we want to be able to get the grants given so that you can have the stimulative effects of the grants," she said in an interview with *FierceWireless*. "You want the job creation, you want the building of the infrastructure, you want the economy to be positively affected by the issuance of these monies. And so we want to get this program up and running as quickly as possible, while at the same time making sure that we are very careful not to have waste, fraud and abuse, and comply with the various requirements of the statute."



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BROADBAND STIMULUS GRANT UPDATE: FIRST ROUND STILL UNDER REVIEW, SECOND ROUND LIKELY TO SLIP A BIT

07 January 2010

Anna Gomez, deputy assistant secretary for communications and information at NTIA (National Telecommunications and Information Administration), spoke at today's Tech Policy Summit at the Consumer Electronics Show in Las Vegas.

She repeated previous agency comments about wanting to "get it done fast, get it done right and with the greatest effect possible."

She described the Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP) as "unprecedented" at the NTIA.

Lessons learned in a difficult first round would be applied in the second round. Among those lessons is a better understanding of what sort of projects should take priority for *BTOP* funding.



Secretary Gomez speaks to reporters at 2010 Consumer Electronics Show

Her comments regarding the program's time line were:

- The notice of funding availability (NOFA) for the second round will be released in a "few weeks". She wouldn't say if that means the previous target of mid-January would slip, although she left room for thinking it will.
- The first round grants will be completed "on a rolling basis over the next two months."
- All grants will be made by Congress' mandated deadline of 30 September 2010.
- In separate comments, Karen Jackson from the Commonwealth of Virginia's Technology Office, confirmed that there will be at least a 60 day window for second round applications, rather than the original 45 day deadline in the first round.

I spoke with Secretary Gomez afterward about some of the nuances of the application review time line and progress to date. She couldn't provide much else in the way of details, although the inference was that the first review stage for the first round BTOP (broadband technology opportunities program) applications is still ongoing, and that not all of the projects that will advance to the second, due diligence stage of review have been selected.

She did say "our goal is to make sure people know their status in time to file in the second round." Asked whether first round applicants could be in the position of having to simultaneously prepare a second round application and follow up on a first round application, she said "hopefully not."

Connecting the dots, here's my take:

- The second round NOFA will be released around the end of January, maybe even as late as the first or second week of February.
- If a first round application hasn't advanced to the second stage of review by the end of the month, it won't.
- The second round NOFA will be more specific about program goals, be structured to encourage cooperation amongst applicants, and favor projects that include significant, shared middle mile infrastructure, with or without last mile facilities.
- NTIA has a much better understanding now of how to run the program and what its goals should be. Don't be surprised if the first round falls significantly short of its $4 billion target, with unspent funds redirected to specific program goals in the second round.

Secretary Gomez also announced a new program, available at match.broadbandusa.gov, called Broadband Match. It's an online tool that is supposed to "facilitate partnerships among prospective applicants for a grant." She said the idea is to further NTIA head Larry Strickling's goal for the next round of favoring public/private partnerships that take a "comprehensive view" of communities.

She said. that they want to ensure that key community members—meaning anchor institutions and government agencies—can access middle mile projects directly and that private companies can make use of it to create last mile services that reach consumers and businesses.

The emphasis in the second round will clearly be on middle mile projects. Gomez spotlighted the grant made to such a project in Georgia last month as an excellent example of what they'll be looking for in the second round. The objective of the Broadband Match program is to ensure that public/private groups "can put together the most comprehensive application possible."

TALKING POINTS FOR

ASSISTANT SECRETARY ANNA GOMEZ
COMMERCE SPECTRUM MANAGEMENT ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

MARCH 4, 2010, 9:00 AM

HCHB 4830

- It is my pleasure to welcome you again to the Department of Commerce for this meeting of the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee. Our Assistant Secretary, Larry Strickling, is unable to attend today because he is testifying to Congress. He sends his best regards to all of you.
- I want to thank outset our co-chairs, Dale Hatfield and Bryan Tramont, and all of the members, for your extraordinary commitments of time and energy to this committee. I know you have been exceptionally active and have worked hard within your subcommittees to define issues and produce draft reports.
- Today, good spectrum policy is more important than ever. We can't rest on our laurels. We are weeks away from release of the National Broadband plan. It is more and more apparent that good spectrum policy is a foundation to a good broadband policy.
- New and more efficiently used spectrum can make a significant contribution to a more competitive broadband Internet access marketplace. Research and development can lead to innovative new spectrum access technologies, and these can spur a new round of innovation that will increase domestic spectrum efficiency through sharing and opportunistic use. If there is one thing we know about spectrum, is that there is increasing scarcity in the "beachfront" locations. If we are to get better at expanding the availability and affordability of broadband, we need to get better at sharing—between Federal users, between commercial users, and between Federal and commercial users. We need your expert advice in addressing this issue.
- The reports you are working on for discussion at today's meeting and future sessions—on spectrum inventory, transparency, adjacent band interference and

dynamic spectrum access, and incentives, will lead the way in spectrum management. This is why I emphasize the need for you to be specific as to the actions NTIA can take to implement your recommendations.
- And the work is just beginning, as you further define and explore these issues in your future work and advice to NTIA.
- Thank you all again for being here today. With that, I'd like to turn this meeting back over to our co-chairs, Dale and Bryan.

NTIA OFFICIAL PROVIDES TIMELINES FOR NATIONWIDE BROADBAND NETWORK

Urqent Communications

Donny Jackson

Tue, 2012–03–20 11:07

It could be at least a year before construction on the nationwide, 700 MHz *LTE* network for public safety begins, because the governance and planning work for the massive project must be completed first, according to an official for the *National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA).*

NTIA has until Aug. 20 to establish the *First Responder Network Authority* (FirstNet), the 15-member board that will make policy decisions regarding the public-safety broadband network, said *Anna Gomez,* NTIA's deputy assistant secretary, during last week's Urqent Communications *webinar* sponsored by *Cassidian Communications.* After FirstNet is created, it has to create a public-safety advisory committee, establish resources, develop a request for inquiry (RFI) and consult with designated agents for each state before releasing a request for proposal (RFP).

The new law does not stipulate a time frame for the RFP process, but Gomez said NTIA plans to "move full-speed ahead" with the tasks—although she does not believe this step can be completed quickly.

"It's a pretty good guess that it's going to take several months," Gomez said during the webinar, an archive of which is *available here.*

After the RFP is released, governors will have 90 days to accept the plan or choose to opt out of the nationwide buildout to plan construction of the LTE network in their states. While this is an option, states choosing to opt out of the nationwide plan must submit their own plan within six months and get *FCC* approval before they can begin construction. In addition, they will have to provide a 20 percent match to Federal funds for the deployment—operational expenses will not be covered—something that will not be required of states following the FirstNet plan.

When asked whether states choosing to opt out of the nationwide plan will pay more and see a deployment delay, Gomez said, "I would say that's not unlikely."

Of course, the first deployments in this private LTE network are expected to be completed this year, as several 700 MHz waiver recipients are scheduled to build out 700 MHz broadband systems with Federal stimulus grant money. *Public Safety Spectrum Trust* (PSST) Chairman Harlin McEwen said he has been working with the FCC and NTIA to ensure a smooth transition of the public-safety broadband license from the PSST to FirstNet.

McEwen said he believes it is "very unlikely" that the FCC will approve any new 700 MHz broadband waivers before the license is transferred to FirstNet.

Perhaps the most controversial portion of the new law is a requirement that public-safety entities must vacate the T-Band spectrum in the 470–512 MHz range. Mobile wireless consultant *Andrew Seybold* emphasized that the key for agencies operating on this spectrum is "don't panic."

Public-safety officials are trying to convince the FCC to waive the *narrowbanding* mandate for T-Band agencies, in part because the purpose of narrowbanding—clearing additional spectrum for public safety to use—would not happen in the T-Band, Seybold said. But a more important reason that T-Band agencies should not narrowband is to ensure that scarce financial resources are used most efficiently—in this case, to help pay for the buildout of a LTE network, according to Charles Dowd, deputy chief for the New York City Police Department.

"Why would we want to invest $100 million to $200 million to narrowband a UHF T-Band system, if the spectrum is going to be taken away from us at some point?" Dowd said. "Unless your system is at its end of life, the idea of just narrowbanding it for the sake of narrowbanding—to us—doesn't make a lot of sense."

Related stories

- Commentary: Nationwide network has public safety scrambling for answers
- Commentary: New public-safetv network is story like no other
- PSA celebrates broadband-network victory

- GAO: Mission-critical voice over broadband not in the near future
- NYPD: New T-band rules should alter FCC's narrowbanding mandate

Source URL: *http://urgentcomm.com/ networks-amp-systems-news/ ntia-official-provides-timelines-nationwide-broadband-network*

GLOBAL FORUM 2014

Welcome to the keynote opening session, . . .

I am Anna Gomez, a partner at the law firm of Wiley Rein, where I specialize in advising clients regarding domestic and international telecommunications as well as on issues surrounding new and expanding uses of unmanned aircraft systems.

The digital transformation of global economies continues at breathtaking speed. Since we spoke last year the digital economy—and regulatory policies—have continued to grow and evolve. Bit topics this year were Big Data, Internationalization of the Internet, unmanned aircraft, driverless cars, almost daily Cybersecurity breaches, the Internet of Things, high speed broadband, disruptive sharing economy apps. I'm not even going to mention Net Neutrality!

Economic imperatives of cost reduction and globalization are driving business decisions, while regulators are focusing on setting and enforcing rules of the road that allow innovation to flourish while protecting privacy and data, driving innovation and investment in their own economies, and freeing up spectrum for the many mobile uses in the digital economy.

Last year I gave you some quick forecasts of what's to come, I thought I would update them this year:

- While in 1992 there were about as many devices connected to the Internet as there are people living in San Jose California, today there are more connected devices than there are human beings in the planet.
- The global Internet of Things market will grow from about $2 trillion to $7.1 trillion by 2020.
  - But today about 90 percent of all IoT devices are being installed in the world's developed regions
  - By 2020 we'll have up to 26 billion individual devices worldwide
- The U.S. Market for unmanned aircraft systems will grow from $5 billion in 2013 to $15 billion in 2020. The global market for consumer UAS will exceed $1 Billion in the next five years.
- By 2018, 62 percent of new cars sold worldwide will have embedded Internet connectivity.
- By 2020, 4 of five smartphone connections worldwide will come from the developing world.

With so much connectivity also comes challenges.

- How do we ensure universal broadband connectivity?
- How can policymakers set the tone to allow innovators to enter—and as Gary will discuss—disrupt the market?
- How do we allocate spectrum to meet consumers'—and innovators—thirst for bandwidth?
- How can policymakers create an environment conducive to the take-up of cloud services that address uses' concerns about privacy and security?
- Who should govern the Internet and how?

We have a very distinguished panel, which will provide us some interesting perspectives on these and other issues in their respective areas of the world.

Since we want to make sure we have sufficient time for dialogue, I do not plan to review each of our speakers' many accomplishments. So please refer to their bias, which were provided in your packets.

We begin with the Chair of the Session, Mr. Roberto Viola, who is the Deputy Director General of the European Commission Directorate General for Communications Networks, Content and Technology. Chair Viola,

[Mr. Viola speaks]

Gary Shapiro has kindly agreed to set the scene for our panel. Gary is the President and CEO of the Consumer Electronics Association. Gary?

Our next speaker is Jorgen Abild Andersen, who is Chairman of the OECD's Committee on Digital Economy Policy

[Jorgen speaks]

Our next speaker is Michel Ching Chong Lu, Representative of the Taipei Representative Office in France. Representative Lu,

[Rep. Lu speaks]

Our next Speaker is Theresa Swineheart, who is Senior Advisor to the President on Global Strategy at ICANN (the Internet Corporation for Assigned Names and Numbers).

- You were just in Kore for the Plenipotentiary conference.

How did that go?

Our next speaker is Dr. Willie Lu, co-founder of Technaut Intellectual Ventures and Chief Inventor and Father of the Open Wireless and mobile cloud platform for mobile devices.

Dr. Lu,

- Why is the Mobile Cloud is largely different from Cloud Computing?

Qs:

1. Policymakers around the world face many challenges in this connected age of responding to disruptive innovators in today's digital economy. Do disruptive innovators present a dilemma or an opportunity, and how do you each see your organizations responding to them?
2. For Mr. Viola—Incoming European Commission President Juncker has had a great focus on the importance of digital market. Can you tell us what will be the policy direction under the new Commission?
3. While the Internet of Things, and its M2M subset, have exploded in some economies, in others the lack of broadband deployment has significantly hampered large scale deployment, creating a new kind of digital divide. According to a recent GSMA report on M2M, M2M accounts for 1 in 10 of all mobile connections in the U.S., in contrast to one in 20 in Europe and one in 100 in Africa. What can policymakers—and entrepreneurs—do to ameliorate this divide?
4. How can policymakers appropriately balance allowing innovation to flourish while protecting consumers and ensuring appropriate infrastructure deployment?
5. ICANN and its stakeholders are discussing the proposed undertaking the internationalization of the Internet. Numerous issues are being addressed as we proceed, one of those being accountability. ICANN and its stakeholders have recognized, however, that it is important to ensure inclusion in the discussion of those parts of the world that have not been active in ICANN. How is that progressing and what can be done to further address the concerns of those who have not traditionally been part of the ICANN process?
6. As we are looking at transparency, accountability, governance structures for all stakeholders in ensuring connected age, where does one look at accountability and transparency of respective parties? Where are the checks and balances that allow for continued innovation but ensure responsibilities lie where they need to lie? Even with the cloud and the Internet of things—at which point is it the responsibility of the producer of the "thing" (such as a smart refrigerator)—as opposed to the user—to secure the information?
7. Unmanned aircraft systems are growing in popularity not just among hobbyists, but also for commercial and public safety uses. Amazon would like to use them to deliver packages, the motion picture industry and news organizations for filming, Facebook to provide Internet access in unserved regions, even farmers are interested in them for monitoring their crops. From the public safety perspective, UAS have been used to film post-disasters in order to provide a quicker, more targeted response. What are the opportunities for unmanned aircraft and what stands in the way of more widespread deployment?
8. Today's connected users are made up primarily of users who are familiar with not having a connected age. With that come issues of trust, but also an awareness that security needs to be a concern (even if we don't know exactly how to ensure it). How do we secure the environment for a generation of users that don't know anything but a connected age?

a. Willie—why are wireless optimization and mobile cybersecurity critical issues in the mobile cloud?

b. How do we develop secured and converged terrestrial and airborne networks based on the commercial mobile cloud platform?

SILICON FLATIRONS

FEBRUARY 2015

- Good morning
- This session will explore what institutional approaches and legal regimes are most effective to enable innovation while ensuring . . .
- This panel is very timely, as we have seen a significant shift in regulatory philosophy in the current FCC and FTC.

Three very different topics that explore, by turns,

- the play of economic productivity and democratic egalitarianism goals in communications regulation;
- how different modes of technology regulation balance effectiveness against regulatory agility/modesty; and
- the need to revamp intellectual property rights to shift more of the social costs of IP monopolies to the monopolists.

The discussants will take up each of the papers on their own. Preliminary questions:

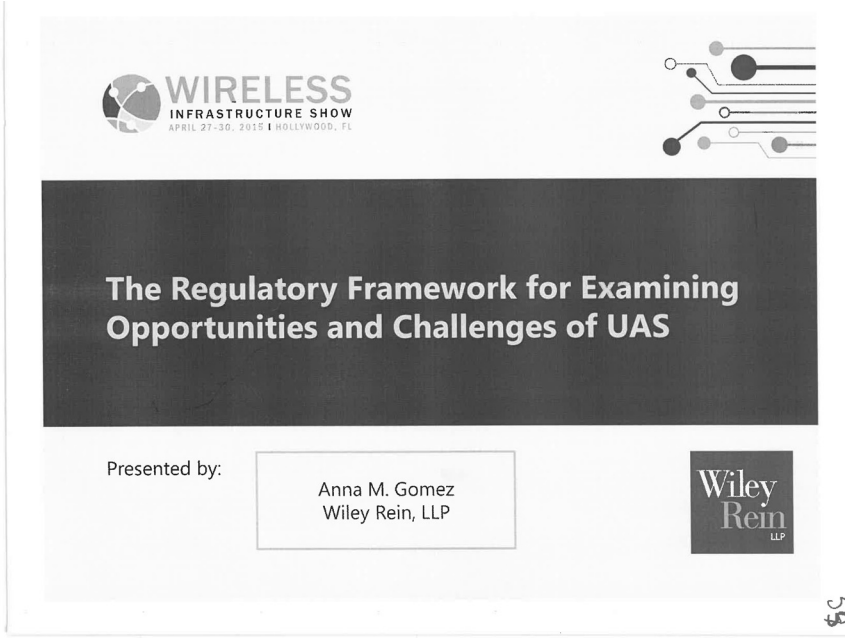
- All the papers deal in some way with the power/stickiness of default rules, but also have a lot faith in the dynamism of stakeholders (including policymakers, regulated entities, and rights holders).
  - What are the default rules that should worry us most or that we should most value in the pursuit of optimal policy outcomes?
- Your proposed governance regimes depend on particular conceptions of innovation.
  - What if these models are wrong or the processes of innovation change radically?
  - How do your favored governance regimes adapt?
  - How can they tell that adaptation is necessary?
  - And given the stickiness of default rules, will adaptation be rapid enough?
  - How important is the ability to adapt and change in the assessment of a governance regime and what are the costs of flexibility?
- Your proposed governance regimes all depend on at least Congressional (and judicial) inaction, leaving the agency lots of leeway, and at most ambitious legislative action. We seem to be living in a period in which ambitious legislative action is impossible.
  - Should governance regimes be designed with this in mind?
  - What does legislative benign (at best) neglect mean for your proposals?
  - How can versions of them be implemented despite or even exploiting dysfunctional government?
- All the papers in one way or another envision ex ante decision-making as a way to foster virtuous cycles of innovation, reduce moral hazard, time intervention for optimal impact.
  - What are the costs (*e.g.,* getting it wrong) and benefits (*e.g.,* clarity) of putting more weight on ex ante judgments about how markets and technologies will play out?
  - Where do you think we need to develop more robust ex post adjudication and enforcement?
  - How do the stakeholders line up on the ex-ante/ex post spectrum (or binary)?
- What are the collective action/political economy problems in realizing your governance proposals and what can be done?
- Ask a question about big data.
- Ask a question about drones—Howard Shelanski
- Looking at slide 7 of Mark Cooper's presentation (pasted below)-does the current broadband Internet access market reflect the virtuous cycle building blocks, and where might there be failures that require regulatory intervention?

Building Blocks of the Virtuous Cycle
Micro-Level

- User driven to an unprecedented degree
- Importance of platforms
- New relationship to capital markets
- Dramatic increases in entry
- Voluntary, Multi-stakeholder management of Open Standards

Autonomously Generated, Sector-Specific Externalities

- Expanded division of labor
- Divided and diverse technical platform leadership
- Specialization of supply firms
- Network effects
- Knowledge flows
- Leaming externalities
- Howard Shelanski: You have had a highly varied experience with regulatory regimes and institutions, having served at the FCC, FTC and now at OIRA. What has been your experience with what works—and conversely doesn't work—to enable innovation while protecting the public interest?
- Mark posits that the best way to secure the future is to understand the ingredients of past success. To what past successes would you point and what were the ingredients for those past successes?



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Overview

- Current Regulatory Landscape
- FAA Actions
  - FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Small UAS
  - FAA Test Sites
  - Section 333 Exemptions
- Privacy
  - NTIA Privacy Multi-Stakeholder Process

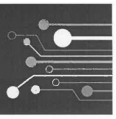
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Background: sUAS

- Unmanned aircraft with payload capabilities
  - Under 55 pounds
  - Cost ranging from $1,000 to $20,000 each
  - Flying at altitudes below 400 feet AGL
  - Maximum speeds of 30 mph to 50 mph
  - 30 to 40 minute flight time
  - Visual line of sight operations

3

Current Regulatory Landscape



- Hobbyists can fly
- Operators of a "public aircraft" can fly with FAA permission
- Commercial users can obtain a grant of exemption under Section 333 to fly
- Operators with Special Airworthiness Certificates in the Experimental Category can fly for R&D purposes

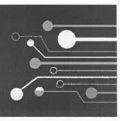
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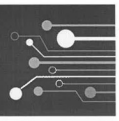
FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Small UAS



- Operational Limitations:
  - Weight under 55 lbs
  - Daylight and visual line of sight operations
  - May not operate over any persons not directly involved with operations
  - Yield right of way to other aircraft
  - Visual observer not required
  - Maximum airspeed 100 mph
  - Maximum altitude 500 feet AGL
  - No careless or reckless operations

5

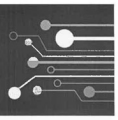
FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Small UAS (cont'd)



- Operator certification and responsibilities
  - Pass an initial aeronautical knowledge test at an FAA-approved knowledge testing center.
  - Recurrent test every two years
  - Vetted by TSA
  - Be at least 17 years old
  - Report accidents to the FAA within 10 days of any operation that results in injury or property damage
  - Conduct preflight inspection

6

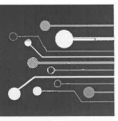
FAA Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on Small UAS (cont'd)



- Proposed rule excludes UAS conducting external load operations and towing aircraft or objects
- "Micro" UAS proposal - additional, more flexible framework for UAS under 4.4 pounds
- Final rules could take until late 2016 or 2017

7

Section 333 Exemptions



- The Secretary of Transportation may determine under Section 333 of the FAA Modernization and Reform Act of 2012 that:
  - Certain UAS as a result of their size, weight, speed, operational capability, proximity to airports and populated areas, and operation within visual line of sight do not create a hazard to users of the National Airspace System (NAS) or the public or pose a threat to national security.

8

Basic Minimum Showings for an Exemption

- UAS weigh less than 55 pounds
- Maximum altitude of 400 feet AGL
- Restricted to line of sight operation
- Licensed pilot and an observer
- Maintain minimum distances from airports
- Not operate over people or populated areas
- Procedures to give way to manned aircraft
- Safety systems for aircraft failure or radio link loss

9

Exemptions Granted

- The FAA has granted 224* exemptions
  - Closed-set filming
  - Aerial imaging and surveying
  - Flare stack inspection
  - Real estate photography
  - Agricultural purposes
  - Bridge and utility inspections and monitoring
  - Roof inspections

* As of April 24, 2015

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Privacy

- No federal rules or laws specifically address sUAS privacy
- States have passed bills and laws regulating UAS privacy and surveillance
- February Presidential Memorandum directs NTIA to establish a multi-stakeholder process to develop privacy, accountability, and transparency best practices
  - "Promoting Economic Competitiveness While Safeguarding Privacy, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties in Domestic Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems"

11

NTIA Privacy Multi-Stakeholder Process

- NTIA convenes the meetings of stakeholders to develop consensus best practices
  - Meetings are open to any person or organization that wishes to participate
    - Meetings are webcast
  - NTIA will establish agenda, but not direct outcomes
    - NTIA likely will establish working groups
  - No definitive timeline or deadline
- NTIA will announce the first meeting soon

12



Flying Free and Far: the Spectrum Piece of the BVLOS Puzzle

Presented by:

R. Michael Senkowski
Anna M. Gomez

Katy M. Ross

May 7, 2015

These slides are accompanied by an oral presentation and should not be relied upon as legal advice.
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Overview

- Spectrum Management Overview
- UAS Spectrum: How Much
- UAS Spectrum: What We Have
- UAS Spectrum: How to Get Access
- UAS Spectrum: How to Get More
- UAS Spectrum: Things to Consider Doing



Overview

- Spectrum Management Overview
- UAS Spectrum: How Much
- UAS Spectrum: What We Have
- UAS Spectrum: How to Get Access
- UAS Spectrum: How to Get More
- UAS Spectrum: Things to Consider Doing



Spectrum Management Overview

- The allocation of radio spectrum is a highly regulated practice involving global, regional, and domestic regulatory bodies
- Allocations are made to specific classes of services (*e.g.* aeronautical mobile, fixed satellite, commercial mobile radio, *etc.)*
  - UAS typically would operate in spectrum allocated for aeronautical mobile service



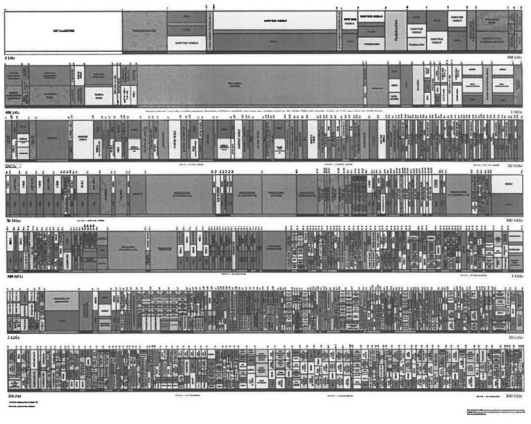
Spectrum Management Overview

- Globally, the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) establishes rules and policies for radio spectrum use to prevent cross-border interference.
  - The ITU is a United Nations specialized organization
  - World Radio Conferences (WRCs) are held every 3-4 years to review spectrum policies
  - Countries may adjust international allocations to satisfy domestic needs provided that no cross-border interference is created
- The U.S. bifurcates its management of spectrum
  - The FCC oversees commercial and civil use (*i.e.*, state and local government)
  - National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) regulates Federal government use of spectrum

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UNITED STATES FREQUENCY ALLOCATIONS

THE RADIO SPECTRUM



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UAS Spectrum: How Much

- A robust UAS industry will require significant quantities of spectrum to ensure safety and efficiency.
- 2009 studies estimate that, globally, UAS will require 34 MHz for terrestrial-based communications and 56 MHz for satellite-based systems.
  - Studies are based on certain technology and demand assumptions; the estimate for Beyond Visual Line-of-Sight satellite-based systems balloons to 169 MHz when using different assumptions
  - Studies predate the explosion of interest in commercial applications, especially sUAS
  - The studies only consider command and control links

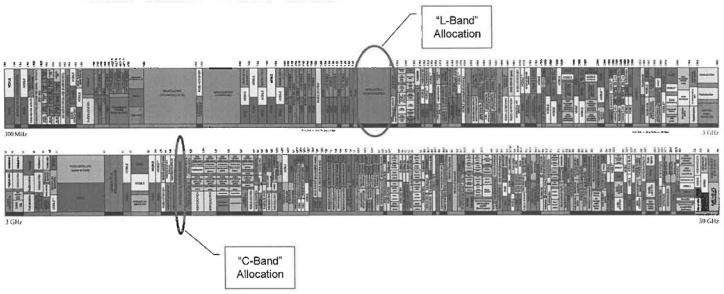


UAS Spectrum: What We Have

- Spectrum has been allocated for commercial and civil UAS but is not yet available pending FCC rules and FAA adoption of UAS policies
  - L-Band: 960 -1164 MHz
    - Same spectrum is used for other aviation uses
  - C-Band: 5030-5091 MHz
    - Allocation supports both terrestrial and satellite-based services
  - There is no infrastructure to provide UAS control links



Zooming in . . .



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Page 8

UAS Spectrum: What We Have

- Other FCC-licensed bands could potentially support UAS command and control links:
  - Frequencies near 27 MHz and 72 MHz available for personal use under the FCC's Radio Control Radio Service
  - Frequencies near 915 MHz, 2450 MHz, and 5750 MHz that are available for unlicensed operations under the FCC's rules
  - Various frequency bands that are used for commercial wireless broadband services
- Some commercial spectrum allocations (e.g., 800 MHz cellular and various unlicensed bands) cannot be used to provide communications service to airborne receivers

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UAS Spectrum: What We Have

Unlicensed Spectrum Bands		
Spectrum Band	**Aeronautical Mobile Permitted?**	**Comments**
902-928 MHz	No	International Table specifically prohibits aeronautical mobile
2400-2483.5 MHz	Partial	In the U.S., 2400-2450 MHz is designated for amateur use. Mobile is permitted from 2450-2483.5 MHz. Must accept interference from ISM equipment (5.150)
5.15-5.25 GHz	No	International Table specifically prohibits aeronautical mobile
5.25-5.35 GHz	No	International Table specifically prohibits aeronautical mobile
5.35-5.47 GHz	No	International Table does not include a mobile allocation
5.47-5.725 GHz	No	International Table specifically prohibits aeronautical mobile
5.725-5.825 GHz	No	International Table does not include a mobile allocation
5.85-5.925 GHz	No	Mobile, non-Federal use is limited to Dedicated Short Range Communications operating in the Intelligent Transportation System radio service. (NG160)
Licensed Spectrum Bands		
Spectrum Band	**Aeronautical Mobile Permitted?**	**Comments**
614-698 MHz	No	Proposed commercial mobile allocation
698-806 MHz	Yes	763-775 MHz and 793-805 MHz are allocated for public safety use
824-849 MHz 869-894 MHz (Cellular)	No	FCC Rules prohibit use aboard aircraft.
1710-1755 MHz 2110-2155 MHz (AWS-1)		
1850-2000 MHz (PCS)	Yes	
2305-2320 MHz 2345-2360 MHz (WCS)	Partial	Aeronautical mobile is prohibited in the lower A Block (2305-2310 MHz). Certain aeronautical uses are permitted on a secondary basis in the 2310-2320 MHz and 2345-2360 MHz bands.
3.5-3.7 GHz	No	International Table prohibits aeronautical mobile

UAS Spectrum: How to Get Access

- Command and control spectrum for UAS has been *allocated* but there is no established process for issuing *frequency assignments* to individual users
- The U.S. spectrum management structure complicates the licensing process:
  - FCC governs spectrum use rights for commercial and civil use
  - NTIA governs spectrum use rights for Federal uses

UAS Spectrum: How to Get Access

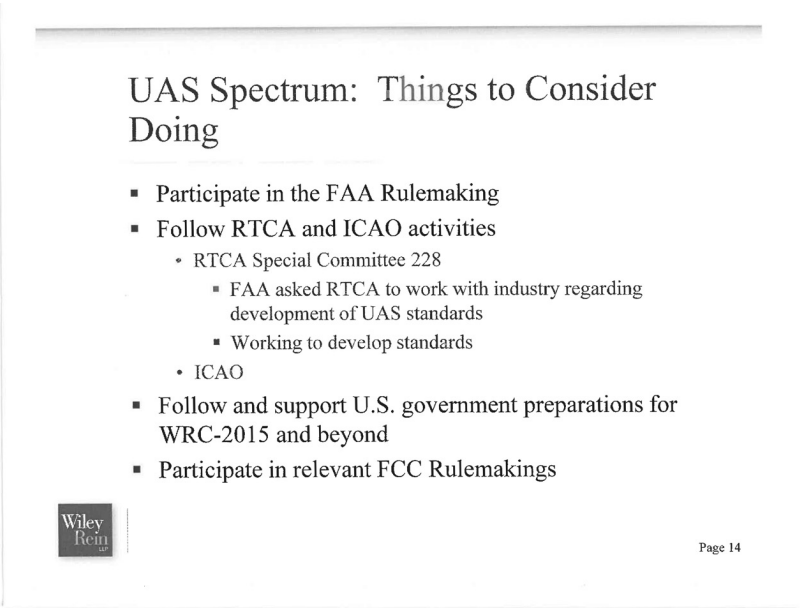
- The FAA, FCC and NTIA have multiple options for distributing frequency assignments to support UAS activities:
  - Unlicensed/Dynamic Access
  - Command and Control frequency assignments
    - Band Manager
    - Frequency Coordinator
  - Commercial network model



UAS Spectrum: How to Get More

- Getting international approval for more spectrum
  - WRC-2015
    - Proposal to use Fixed Satellite Spectrum in Ku (12/14 GHz) and Ka (17-20/27-30 GHz) for UAS
  - Aeronautical allocations are typically advanced and supported by ICAO
  - Any international actions require implementing U.S. regulations





GLOBAL FORUM 2015

Welcome to the keynote opening session, . . .

I am Anna Gomez, a partner at the law firm of Wiley Rein, where I advise clients regarding domestic and international telecommunications matters as well as on issues surrounding new and expanding uses of unmanned aircraft systems.

The digital transformation of global economies continues at breathtaking speed. Since we spoke last year, the digital economy—and regulatory policies—have continued to grow and evolve. Big topics this year were big data, privacy and cybersecurity, unmanned aircraft, driverless cars, the Internet of Things, and disruptive sharing economy apps. Economic imperatives of cost reduction and globalization are driving business decisions, while regulators are focusing on setting and enforcing rules of the road that allow innovation to flourish while protecting privacy and data, driving innovation and investment in their own economies, and freeing up spectrum for the many mobile uses in the digital economy.

Last year I gave you some quick forecasts of what's to come, I thought I would update them this year:

- An array of consumer robotics models is expected to become available during 2016.
- Enterprises will continue to integrate wearable technologies, such as smart glasses, semi-independent smart watches, and motion sensing devices.
- By 2020, there will be more than 3 billion global 4G LTE connections.
- While standards around SG technology are still being developed, many companies are already conducting SG testbeds and trials. 5G service revenue is expected to exceed $65 billion by 2025.
- We will continue to see global adoption of digital and mobile money services, which will accelerate financial inclusion and change economic practices of developing countries.
- The global market for consumer unmanned aircraft systems UAS will reach about $2 Billion by 2022. That's a $1B higher estimate than I told you about last year.
- More than 80 percent of households in developed countries have Internet access, compared to nearly 35 percent of households in developing countries. 57 percent of the world's population can't access the Internet, although the total number of connected individuals rose from 2.9 billion in 2014 to 3.2 billion this year.

- About 80 "things" are newly connected to the Internet each second, and that figure is expected to grow.
- The value of the global digital content market will reach $154 billion annually by 2019, with the biggest driver of market revenue from mobile and online games.
- The global Internet of Things market will grow from about $2 trillion to $7.1 trillion by 2020.
  - But today about 90 percent of all IoT devices are being installed in the world's developed regions
  - By 2020 we'll have up to 26 billion individual devices worldwide
- By 2018, 62 percent of new cars sold worldwide will have embedded Internet connectivity.
- By 2020, 4 of five smartphone connections worldwide will come from the developing world.

With so much connectivity also comes challenges.

- How do we ensure universal broadband connectivity?
- How can policymakers set the tone to allow innovators to enter the market and introduce disruptive innovations?
- How do we allocate spectrum to meet consumers'—and innovators—thirst for bandwidth?
- How can policymakers create an environment conducive to the take-up of services that address uses' concerns about privacy and security?

We have a very distinguished set of speakers for our session today, who will provide us some interesting perspectives on these and other issues in their respective areas of the world.

Since we want to make sure we have sufficient time for dialogue, I do not plan to review each of our speakers' many accomplishments. So please refer to their bios, which were provided in your packets.

We are very fortunate that our opening speaker today is Mikko Kosonen, who is the President of the Finnish Innovation Fund Sitra. We are so pleased to learn about innovation and sustainability in Finland.

[speaks]

Thank you very much, and we are grateful that you will be able to join our dialogue this session.

Our next speaker is Chancellor Anja Wyden Guelpa, who is the Chancellor for the State of Geneva, Switzerland.

[speaks]

Our next speaker is Jorgen Abild Andersen, who is Chairman of the OECD's Committee on Digital Economy Policy

[Jorgen speaks]

Our next speaker is Adriane LaPointe, who is Senior Policy Advisor at the U.S. Department of State's Office of Communications and Information Policy

[speaks]

Our next Speaker is Audrey Scozzaro Ferrazzini, who is Senior Manager, Government Affairs Europe, with Qualcomm

[speaks]

Our next speaker is Luis Romero, who is the Director General from the European Telecommunications Standards Institute.

[Speaks]

And our final speaker today is Yoshio Tanaka, who has so many titles and positions that I will sum it by calling him Professor from the National Institute of Advanced Industry Science and Technology in Japan.

[speaks]

Qs:

1. Everyone: What are the prerequisites to achieving a well-rounded ICT ecosystem and to make the digitization work for inclusive and balanced economic development?
2. Mikko Kosonen: what are the new sustainable growth opportunities of Finland enabled by digitalization,
3. Mikko Kosonen: How to make digitalization happen in Finland? What can others learn from your experience.

4. Adriane: Two years the U.S. helped create the Alliance for Affordable Internet, which is a coalition that draws on expertise from governments, the private sector, and civil society to assist policymakers in expanding Internet access at low prices. Can you give us an update of this alliance and how it relates to the connected globe [check the name!] initiative that Secretary Kerry just announced yesterday?
5. Europe's right to be forgotten decision has raised many eyebrows in the U.S., particularly about the extraterritorial reach of the decision as well as the concern that the right to be forgotten will lead to less accurate search results, thereby lessening the trust consumers have in the internet. How do you see the right to be forgotten evolving, and should we be concerned that it will erode consumer's trust?
6. Luis Romero: How does ETSI envision the evolution from "ICT sector" to "digitization of the economy and society" and the role of standards therein?
7. Luis Romero: The Internet of Things and Smart Cities raise wonderful opportunities, but also challenges. With everything being connected, how does ETSI address the multiplication of (industry) players involved in standardization in that context?
8. Luis Romero: Since ETSI cooperates with organizations throughout the world, what can you tell us about any lessons learned from the implementation of digitization strategies?
9. Luis Romero: Does the citizenship of standards matter in the global economy?
10. In the shift from an industrial to a digital economy, many countries are targeting the Internet of Things as a means to deliver faster growth.
11. What are the drivers behind the creation and growth of sustainability for digitization and entrepreneurial ecosystems?
12. Audrey: How is digitization going to further transform our governments? A recent visible change is a trend towards open, digital, innovative, and collaborative government. I know that Geneva has had much experience in this area. [Would Yoshio be appropriate for follow-up?
13. Jorgen: The Digital Economy is rapidly developing these years. Which area of digitization—if you should mention only one—is in particular a prominent contributor to a flourishing Digital Economy?? (My answer would point at the huge potential of Big Data and Data Driven Innovation—an OECD report on this is due to be published beginning of October).
14. Jorgen: I think we all appreciate that the Digital Economy has a huge potential to foster innovation, growth, jobs and social prosperity. Are there no threats?? What—in your mind—are the 2–3 most prominent potential "blocking stones" for a flourishing Digital Economy? (My answer will mention i.a. lack of appropriate skills and legitimate concerns regarding potential privacy infringements which are not addressed appropriately.)
15. Jorgen: potential in terms of jobs and growth in big data and how setting public data free to use without charge can create jobs. you stated in an interview earlier this year that "new applications and services being developed in 'big data' can be used to help in connection with societal challenges." Can you give us some examples of what you meant by that?
16. Jorgen: the Internet would never have developed to the state it is today had it been regulated by traditional telecom regulation. I therefore think that there are great advantages in continuing with a multistakeholder driven governance model. It is, however, important to understand that the Internet has grown far beyond the boundaries of the U.S. and that stakeholders outside the U.S. should have a larger say to maintain the legitimacy of the current MSH model.
17. Jorgen: Open govt data is a philosophy—and increasingly a set of policies—that promotes transparency, accountability and value creation by making govt data available to all. By making their datasets available, public institutions become more transparent and accountable to citizens. By encouraging the use, reuse, and free distribution of datasets, govts promote business creation and innovative, citizen-centric services.
18. Anja: development of an open Internet accelerates economic growth and social development. This success is due to the openness of the Internet ecosystem which includes all stakeholders.
19. Anja: At last year's global forum you told us about the government testing its online voting technology system, which has successfully enabled people to

vote online rather than through a ballot box or via postal voting. Can you give us an update on that initiative?

20. Question: How can policymakers make access to the Internet more affordable? Are taxes an issue? Would local hosting of content help lower costs? What about roaming charges?
21. SG will be an important platform for supporting digitization of our economic and societal activities, giving the opportunity to reinvent telecom industrial landscape. Over the last 18 months SG has greatly accelerated, with standards, and tests being developed, and with international efforts to allocate spectrum for SG. Are we doing enough to prepare for SG?
22. What are the main priorities in terms of standardization for SG and what work is being done in this area?
23. How can a user-centric vision to SG be ensured based fully around the needs of customers and operators?
24. What work is being done in developing and standardizing a blueprint for SG deployment?
25. Policymakers around the world face many challenges in this connected age of responding to disruptive innovators in today's digital economy. Do disruptive innovators present a dilemma or an opportunity, and how do you each see your organizations responding to them?
26. How can policymakers appropriately balance allowing innovation to flourish while protecting consumers and ensuring appropriate infrastructure deployment?
27. ICANN and its stakeholders are discussing the proposed undertaking the internationalization of the Internet. Numerous issues are being addressed as we proceed, one of those being accountability. ICANN and its stakeholders have recognized, however, that it is important to ensure inclusion in the discussion of those parts of the world that have not been active in ICANN. How is that progressing and what can be done to further address the concerns of those who have not traditionally been part of the ICANN process?
28. As we are looking at transparency, accountability, governance structures for all stakeholders in ensuring connected age, where does one look at accountability and transparency of respective parties? Where are the checks and balances that allow for continued innovation but ensure responsibilities lie where they need to lie? Even with the cloud and the Internet of things—at which point is it the responsibility of the producer of the "thing" (such as a smart refrigerator)—as opposed to the user—to secure the information?
29. Unmanned aircraft systems are growing in popularity not just among hobbyists, but also for commercial and public safety uses. Amazon would like to use them to deliver packages, the motion picture industry and news organizations for filming, Facebook to provide Internet access in unserved regions, even farmers are interested in them for monitoring their crops. From the public safety perspective, UAS have been used to film post-disasters in order to provide a quicker, more targeted response. What are the opportunities for unmanned aircraft and what stands in the way of more widespread deployment?
30. Today's connected users are made up primarily of users who are familiar with not having a connected age. With that come issues of trust, but also an awareness that security needs to be a concern (even if we don't know exactly how to ensure it). How do we secure the environment for a generation of users that don't know anything but a connected age?

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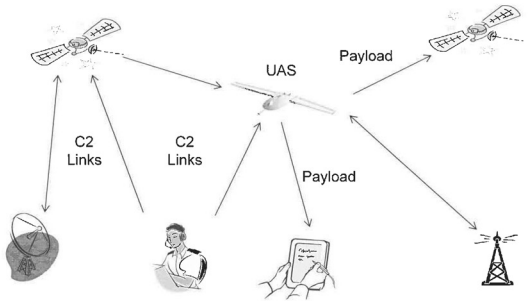
November 16, 2015
Washington, DC

UAS Spectrum

Presented by
Anna M. Gomez

Background: Spectrum and UAS

- Spectrum is necessary to enable safe flights for a wide variety of applications and uses



Spectrum for VLOS

- Small UAS currently operate VLOS flights utilizing the 900 MHz, 2.4 GHz, and 5 GHz Bands on an unlicensed basis

- Unlicensed spectrum is not optimal for BVLOS
  - Limited range (less than a mile)
  - Line of Sight
  - Not Protected
  - Congested because supports diverse technologies

Spectrum for BVLOS

- Two bands have been allocated for commercial and civil UAS:
  - L-Band: 960 -1164 MHz
    - Same spectrum is used for other aviation uses
  - C-Band: 5030-5091 MHz
    - Allocation supports both terrestrial and satellite-based services

Spectrum for BVLOS

- While the L- and C-Band spectrum has been allocated, there is no established process for issuing frequency assignments to individual users
  - Requires FCC licensing and service rules
- Requires changes to NTIA "Redbook"

Alternative Spectrum Options

- Other alternatives include
  - Existing commercial networks' spectrum
    - Suitable for below 500 feet
    - R&D Needed to Prove Feasibility and Reliability
    - Licensed and managed, though not in the aeronautical spectrum
  - Potential for using satellite allocations
    - World Radio Conference proposals to use Fixed Satellite Spectrum in Ku (12/14 GHz) and Ka (17-20/27-30 GHz) bands for UAS

Infrastructure

- Who will build and operate the infrastructure for UAS communications needs?
- Key considerations will include:
  - Budget and timeframe
  - Promotion of efficient use of spectrum
  - How to accommodate off-network operators
  - Degree of federal oversight
  - Enforcement of noncompliant spectrum uses

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The FirstNet Opportunity

February 2016

Presented by
Anna M. Gomez

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Overview

- FirstNet Background
- FirstNet Request for Proposals
- Timeline
- State Opt-Out Process
- Questions

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Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act)



- Spectrum – Reallocates D block for Public Safety Broadband Network
- Funding – $7B allotted with $6.5B available for network build-out
- Governance – Creates FirstNet as an independent authority within the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA)

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Spectrum Act – FirstNet Role & Duties

- Duties: Take all actions necessary to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN)
  - Ensure nationwide standards
  - Protect against cyberattack
  - Promote competition in the equipment market
  - Promote integration of PSAPs
  - Rural coverage requirements including partnerships with existing commercial mobile providers
  - Hardened at physical, user-access and cybersecurity layers
  - Provide local control to public-safety users

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Spectrum Act – Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

- Single network architecture based on commercial standards
  - Core network
  - Radio access network (RAN)
- Public Safety Grade
  - Ubiquity
  - Hardened
  - Capacity
- Leveraging existing infrastructure
  - Commercial wireless and private networks
  - Federal, State, tribal, or local infrastructure

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Spectrum Act – Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

- FirstNet must:
  - — Not compete directly via retail offerings to consumers
  - — Be self-funded via fees
    - Minimum annual payment levels:
      - $80 million for years 1 – 5
      - $130 million for years 6 – 10
      - $205 million for years 11 – 15
      - $305 million for years 16 – 21
      - $430 million for years 22 - 25
  - — Reinvest all excess revenues in the NPSBN
  - — Consult with states, territories, and tribes
    - States can decide to deploy their own (RAN) (aka "opt out")

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FirstNet Players

- NTIA
- Public Safety Advisory Committee
- Governors
- State Points of Contact
- Federal Communications Commission (FCC)
- NPSBN Partners

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FirstNet Request for Proposals

- Released January 13, 2016, proposals due April 29, 2016
  - Nationwide, comprehensive network/service solutions
  - Objectives based vs. requirements based
- Pricing methodology: $6.5B + fixed payment in exchange for use of the Band 14 excess network capacity
- Performance period: 25-year award
- State coverage objectives
  - Substantial rural coverage
  - Phased deployment
- Minimum technical requirements
- Milestone delivery schedule
  - Consistent with 3GPP release schedule

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FirstNet's Financial Sustainability Model

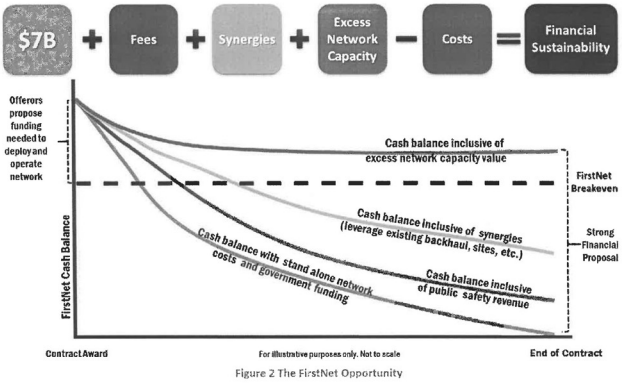
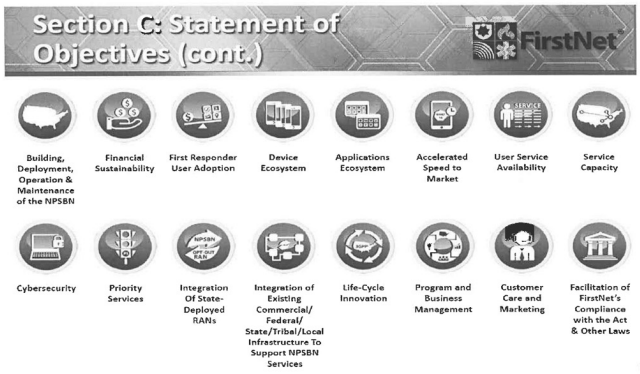


Figure 2 The FirstNet Opportunity

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Statement of Objectives



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RFP Evaluation Process: Phase I

- Capability Statements (due March 17, 2016)
  - Best qualified will be invited to submit proposal
  - Will provide feedback on strengths/weaknesses, whether viable competitor
  - Criteria:
    - Public Safety use and adoption
    - Nationwide coverage/capacity
    - Rural partnerships
    - Ability to monetize the excess network capacity
    - Financial standing

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RFP Evaluation Process: Phases II - IV

- Phase II: Solicitation Conformance
- Phase III: Pass/Fail
  - Criteria:
    - Minimum Payment Thresholds (for each state/territory)
    - Rural Partnerships (for at least 15% of total nationwide rural coverage)
- Phase IV: Detailed Evaluation
  - May hold oral/technical presentations

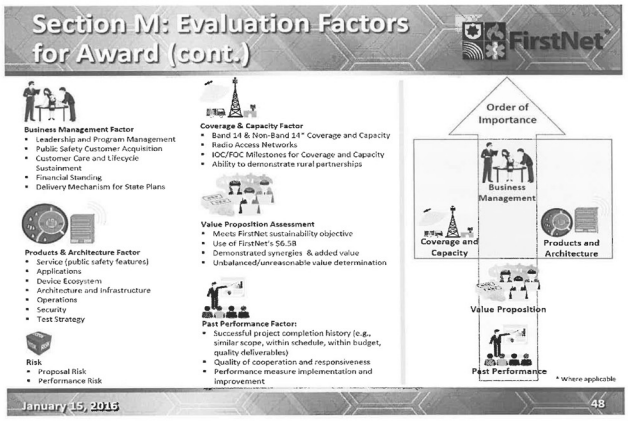
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RFP Evaluation Factors

- Basis for Award
  - FirstNet will award to the Offeror that provides the overall best value to the Government, when all evaluation factors are considered
- Evaluation Factors
  - Business Management
  - Coverage and Capacity
  - Products and Architecture
  - Past Performance
  - Offeror's Value Proposition Assessment
    - Ability to meet all objectives in exchange for revenues from public safety users and non-public safety users, the $6.5 Billion

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RFP Evaluation Factors



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RFP Timeline

- February 12, 2016: Questions to clarify the RFP
- March 10, 2016: FirstNet's pre-proposal conference
- March 17, 2016: Capability statements
- April 29, 2016: RFP responses
- ~ November 1, 2016: Estimated award date
- ~ May 1, 2017: States and territories deployment plans
- ~ July 2017: State opt-in decisions begin
- ~ November 1, 2017: First coverage milestone for Band 14 network
- ~ November 2021: 100% coverage

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RFP Deployment Schedule

- Five-year deployment schedule
  - MVNO operation within six months from award
  - Initial operational and final operational capabilities
- Band 14 rural and non-rural coverage milestones:
  - 20% within first year
  - 60% within two years
  - 80% within three years
  - 95% within four years
  - 100% within five years

State Opt-Out Process

- Upon completion of the RFP process, FirstNet will notify the Governor of each State (or his/her designee)
- No later than 90 days after, each Governor must choose whether to opt out
- If the State opts-out, the Governor must notify FirstNet, NTIA, and the FCC. The State must:
  - In 180 days, develop and complete RFPs for the construction, maintenance, and operations of State radio access network
  - Submit an alternate plan to the FCC that demonstrates:
    - That the State will be in compliance with minimum technical interoperability requirements
    - Interoperability with the nationwide public safety broadband network

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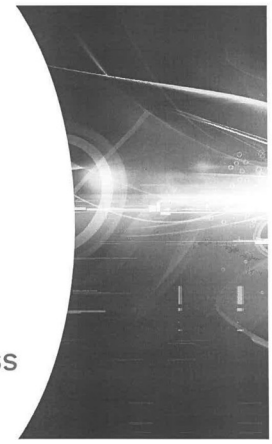
State Opt-Out Process (cont'd)

- If the FCC approves the plan:
  - The State may apply to NTIA for a grant to construct the State RAN
  - The State shall apply to NTIA to lease spectrum capacity from FirstNet
  - The State must pay any user fees associated with State use of elements of the PSBN
- To obtain a grant and lease, the State must demonstrate:
  - Technical capability to operate, and the funding to support, the State portion of the RAN;
  - Ability to maintain ongoing interoperability with the nationwide PSBN;
  - Ability to complete the project within comparable timelines specific to the State;
  - Cost-effectiveness of the State plan; and
  - Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service to that of the nationwide PSBN
- If the FCC disapproves the plan, FirstNet will proceed with its original plan as proposed

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IWCE's NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE FORUM
In Partnership with agl Media Group.
Conference: March 22-23, 2016
Exhibits: March 23-24, 2016
Las Vegas Convention Center • Las Vegas, NV
Connecting the Wired and Wireless



WELCOME!

Session Title

Taking Advantage of the Opportunities Offered by FirstNet

Presenters:

- **Anna M. Gomez**, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP
- **Chris Krafft**, Vice President Public Safety, Telecommunications Business, Black & Veatch Corporation
- **David Oberholzer**, Wireless Business Development, Fujitsu Network Communications, Inc.
- **Kyle Quillen**, Founder and CTO, Agile Networks
- **Chris York**, Director of Channel Sales & Marketing, Dragonwave, Inc.

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 (Spectrum Act)



- Spectrum
- Funding
- Governance

Spectrum Act – FirstNet Role & Duties

- Duties: Take all actions necessary to ensure the building, deployment, and operation of the nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN)
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Spectrum Act – Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

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  - Reinvest all excess revenues in the NPSBN
  - Consult with states, territories, and tribes
    - States can decide to deploy their own RAN (aka "opt out")

FirstNet Request for Proposals

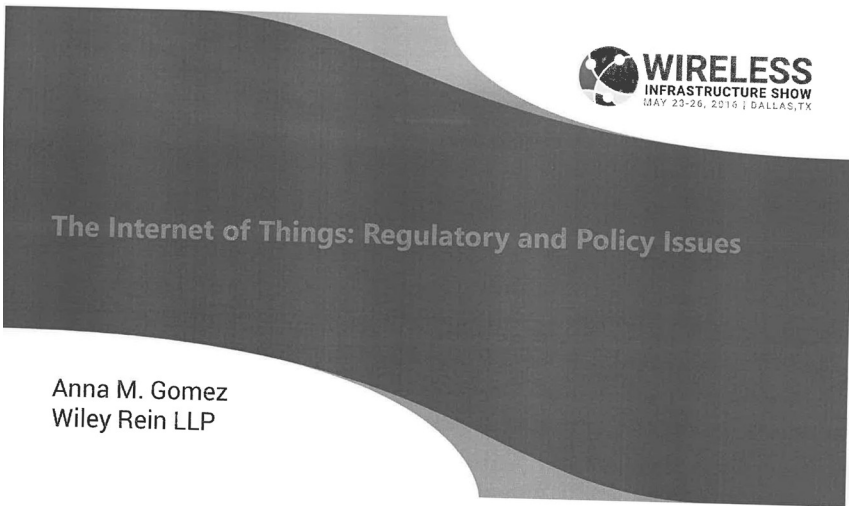
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  - Nationwide, comprehensive network/service solutions
  - Objectives based vs. requirements based
- Pricing methodology: $6.5B + fees + fixed payment for Band 14 excess capacity
- 25-year award term
- Single nationwide award estimated November 2016
- Rural partnerships important

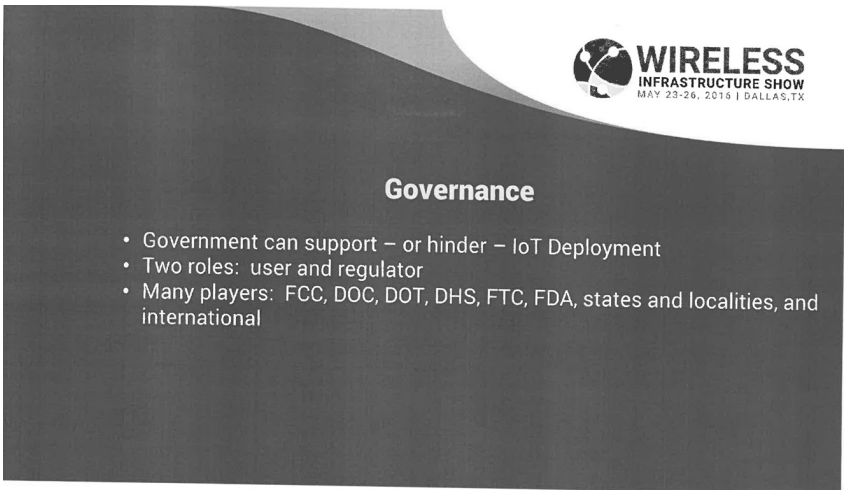
RFP Timeline

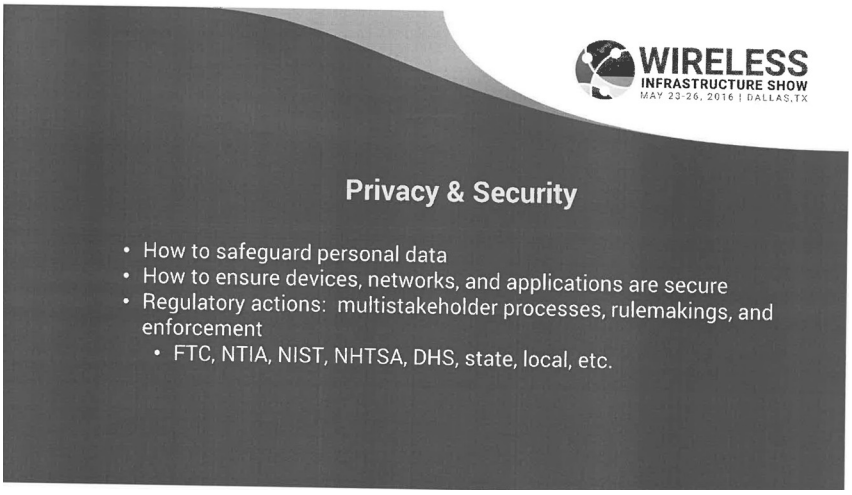
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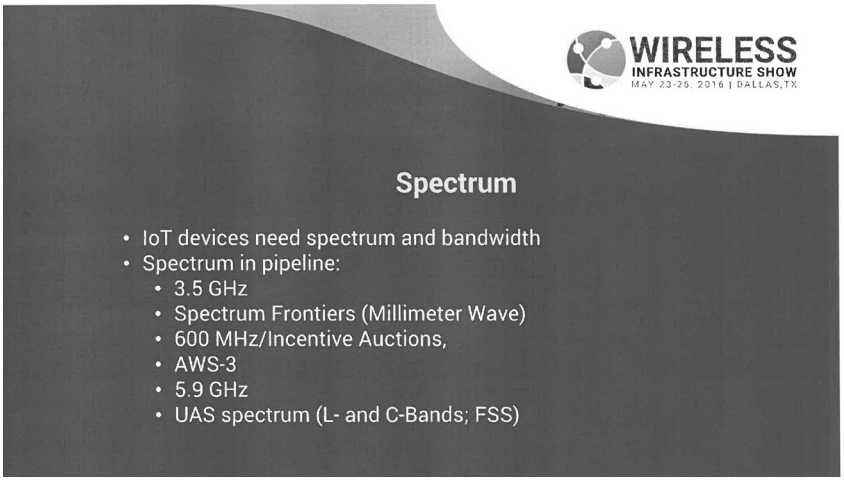
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WIRELESS
INFRASTRUCTURE SHOW
MAY 23-26, 2016 | DALLAS,TX
The Internet of Things: Regulatory and Policy Issues
Anna M. Gomez
Wiley Rein LLP


WIRELESS
INFRASTRUCTURE SHOW
MAY 23-26, 2016 | DALLAS,TX
Governance
• Government can support – or hinder – IoT Deployment
• Two roles: user and regulator
• Many players: FCC, DOC, DOT, DHS, FTC, FDA, states and localities, and international


WIRELESS
INFRASTRUCTURE SHOW
MAY 23-26, 2016 | DALLAS, TX
Privacy & Security
• How to safeguard personal data
• How to ensure devices, networks, and applications are secure
• Regulatory actions: multistakeholder processes, rulemakings, and enforcement
• FTC, NTIA, NIST, NHTSA, DHS, state, local, etc.


WIRELESS
INFRASTRUCTURE SHOW
MAY 23-26, 2016 | DALLAS, TX
Spectrum
• IoT devices need spectrum and bandwidth
• Spectrum in pipeline:
• 3.5 GHz
• Spectrum Frontiers (Millimeter Wave)
• 600 MHz/Incentive Auctions,
• AWS-3
• 5.9 GHz
• UAS spectrum (L- and C-Bands; FSS)

Public Unmanned Aircraft Systems

June 2016

Anna M. Gomez

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These slides are accompanied by an oral presentation and are not to be relied upon for legal advice.

Overview

- Types of UAS operators
- Public Authorizations
- Part 107 Rule
- Section 333 Exemption
- Remote Pilot Certificate with Small UAS Rating
- Small UAS Registration Required
- Law Enforcement Guidance

Three Types of Operations

- Recreational or Hobbyist Operators
  - — Flying for enjoyment and not for work, business purposes, or for compensation for hire
- Public Operators
  - — Government entities or organizations
- Civil or Commercial Operators
  - — Flying for work, business purposes, or for compensation for hire

Recreational or Hobbyist Operators

- Don't need FAA approval as long as comply with certain limits
  - — Below 55 lbs
  - — Below 400'
  - — Safe distance from populated areas/other aircraft
  - — Community based safety and programming
  - — May not fly within 5 miles of an airport without prior notice to air traffic control
- Must register the aircraft
- B4UFLY App

Public Operations

- Federal or state government or subdivision
  - Permitted to hire civil operators to perform a governmental function
- May not be used for commercial purposes
- Options to obtain authority to fly:
  - Part 107 rule
  - Public Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA)

Public Certificate of Waiver or Authorization (COA)

- Allows operator to use defined block of airspace, with special provisions unique to proposed operation
- Agency self-certifies aircraft and crew
- On-line application
- Processing time approximately 60 days
- Renewal up to two years

Public COA (cont'd)

- Must first file a Public Declaration from city, county, or state attorney's office certifying:
  - Proposed operator is part of a governmental entity
  - UAS is a public aircraft (government owned or leased for minimum of 90 days)
  - UAS will be used for a governmental function
  - UAS will not be used for commercial purposes

Public Safety COAs

- Training COA
  - Training and evaluation at specific training site clear of housing areas, roads, persons, watercraft
- Jurisdictional COA
  - Issued when the organization has shown proficiency in flying
  - Permits public safety to operate a particular aircraft, for a particular purpose, in a particular area
  - Allows operator to use a defined block of airspace
  - Usually issued for a specific period, up to two years

Emergency COA

- One-time COA for time-sensitive emergency missions and must fly outside of existing COA boundaries, e.g.,
  - Nighttime
  - Flights in more restricted areas
  - Operate outside of COA location
- Must have active COA
- Operate outside of COA location
- 24/7 hotline answers calls and issues COAS to operate immediately in specific locations

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Part 107 "small UAS" Rule

- FAA announced June 21, 2016, effective late August
- Public operators may voluntarily elect to operate under Part 107 as a civil rather than public aircraft
  - —Instead of obtaining public agency COA
  - —BUT, same must comply with Part 107 requirements, unless obtain waiver(s)

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Part 107 "small UAS" Rule

- Summary:
  - —55 lbs or less
  - —Max 400' altitude
  - —Max speed 87 knots/100 mph
  - —Daytime only, allows civil twilight with appropriate lighting
  - —VLOS only
  - —Operations over nonparticipating people not permitted

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Part 107 "small UAS" Rule

- Summary (cont'd):
  - —Pilot must have FAA-issued Remote Pilot Airman Certification with small UAS rating
  - —If accident loss higher than $500, must report within 10 days
  - —NOTAMs not required
  - —If airport is in Class G, no requirement for notice, even to air traffic control
    - FAA developing procedures for operations in other classes of airspace

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Part 107 Waivers

- FAA will issue waivers for some rules, e.g.,
  - —Prohibition of flights over people
  - —Prohibition on nighttime operations
  - —Minimum flight-visibility and cloud-clearance
  - —Maximum altitude limitations
  - —Requirement to yield right of way
- FAA expects process to be streamlined

Part 107: Operations in Certain Airspace

- Operations in Class G airspace do not require approval
- Methods for seeking approval to operate in Class B, C, D, and E airspace:
  - — Approval from relevant ATC facility
  - — Waiver
- COAs no longer required
- Request authorization in writing (online portal being developed), not via radio to ATC
- FAA working on guidance

Remote Pilot Certificate with Small UAS Rating

- Under Part 107, must have a "remote pilot certificate with small UAS rating," which requires:
  - Operator must be at least 16 years old
  - English proficiency
  - Pass TSA background check
  - Pass a written aeronautical knowledge exam at an FAA-approved testing center
  - Pass a recurrent aeronautical knowledge test every 24 months
  - No aeronautical experience of flight proficiency required
  - No airman medical certificate

Remote Pilot Certificate with Small UAS Rating (cont'd)

- Applicants with a Part 61 pilot certificate only have to take online training
- Once complete knowledge test, complete FAA Airman Certificate and/or Rating Application (IACRA) to receive the remote pilot certificate
  - FAA will issue a temporary airman certificate online and mail a permanent certificate within 120 days
- Tests and courses will be available in late August
  - Course materials available today at www.faasafety.gov

Section 333 Exemption

- Over 5,300 exemptions granted
- Blanket COA for 333 exemption flights under 400'
- FAA will evaluate pending 333 exemption requests per three tiers:
  - Proposed operations fall under new Part 107
  - Proposed operations can be covered by waivers
  - Proposed operations not waivable

Registration

- Required by FAA as of December 21, 2015
- Anyone who owns a small UAS over .55 lbs (250 g) and less than 55 lbs (25 kg) must register
- Applies to public UAS
- Failure to register could result in up to $27,500 in civil penalties and up to $250,000 in criminal fines and/or imprisonment for up to three years

SILICON FLATIRONS QUESTIONS

OCTOBER 2015

When I read the materials to prepare for our session, it made me think of how the FCC General Counsel provides advice to the Commission. The GC's advice is couched in terms of "what is the litigation risk of this decision." Litigation risk is a risk-based assessment—what is the likelihood this item will be appealed, and what is the likelihood of success if it is appealed. The Commissioners make the determination of what level of risk they are willing to take in enacting a particular policy. This contrasts with my experience in the Executive Branch, where the lawyers "clear" on all items and make determinations of whether a decision is or is not legal. I believe the former method allows the Commission to be more innovative and nimble than the Executive Branch.

What can go wrong? What are the consequences? How likely is it?

1. The FCC's General Counsel generally couches its advice in terms of the litigation risk of a decision. The Commissioners make the determination of what level of risk they are willing to take in enacting a particular policy. This contrasts with my experience in the Executive Branch, where the lawyers "clear" on all items and make determinations of whether a decision is or is not legal. I believe the former method allows the Commission to be more innovative and nimble than the Executive Branch.

a. What are your thoughts on this comparison?

b. Would quantitative risk assessments encourage innovative policymaking?

2. Do quantitative risk assessments make regulators' decisions more or less fact-based? Would this also be true for business judgments?

3. How, practically, would the decision making work at the FCC?

a. Would the staff present a matrix to the Commissioners, and then the Commissioners would choose among a menu of options?

b. Should the Bureau release a public notice containing its risk-based analysis for public comment prior to reaching a final decision?

c. What would you say are the most important elements of a risk-based analysis?

d. What are other agencies' practices in this area?

4. One case in point in which the FCC could have conducted a risk-based assessment is the upcoming incentive auction. The upcoming incentive auction poses a number of risks for broadcasters. Broadcasters must determine if they want to participate in the auction and, if they do not, will likely be facing a mandatory relocation of their physical broadcasting channel. Has the FCC adequately considered the risks to broadcasters in making its repacking decisions affecting broadcasters post-auction?

5. Shawn: You have significant experience developing standards to increase reliability and safety for wireless technologies. How would your experiences over the years inform a regulatory agency's actions to ensure increased reliability and safety for wireless technologies?

6. Gary: How have other regulators used these techniques?

7. Decision-makers tend to like yes/no answers. Doesn't this make their job harder? How would decision makers use the assessments?

8. Change causes discomfort for decision-makers. What difficulties do you foresee the FCC would face in that transition?

9. Any thoughts on how the decisions at the FCC would have come out differently had they employed this risk assessment analysis?

a. Gary: Who have been the winners and losers when utilizing this assessment?

b. Is there an argument that incumbents benefit from a worst-case analysis?

1. Add a question about IRFA/FIRFA—how to keep the agency from implementing it in a manner that does take it seriously.

ANNA M. GOMEZ

FCC HISPANIC HERITAGE MONTH REMARKS

SEPTEMBER 30, 2016

Buenos dias!

Thank you Olga for that kind introduction.

And thank you to the Office of Workplace Diversity for the invitation to speak with you today. I can't tell you how honored I was to be asked to be your speaker this year.

- The FCC holds a dear spot in my heart.
  - I worked with many of you when I was here at the FCC, and I spent many interesting, challenging, and fun years working in this wonderful place.
  - I truly felt like I was with family here.

Each year, we observe National Hispanic Heritage month to celebrate the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors are Latino or Hispanic.

  - Latinos and Hispanics have made important contributions—which is why I also find it humbling to be asked to speak with you today.

I am proud to be a Latina.

- I am the daughter of a Colombian who became a naturalized American citizen over 50 years ago,
  - My mother was born in Columbia, SC—so I like to say I'm 100 percent Colombian!
- I also grew up in Colombia.
  - My parents moved us there when I was a baby, and we stayed there until I was 14.
  - My extended family lived nearby, including my Grandmother, who we called Granita, and my grandfather, Pachito.
  - And my cousins, all of whose names begin with Maria, in keeping with my family's Colombian Catholic tradition.
    - So my cousins are Maria Juanita, Maria Carolina, Maria Lucia, Maria Francis, Maria Victoria, and just plain Maria.
    - And then my mother goes and names me Anna Marie!
- We moved to the United States when I was 14 years old.
  - I suffered such culture shock!
  - The U.S. was so different—different music, different past times, different lingo.
  - I'd like to say that it was a smooth transition, but I was teased mercilessly by my classmates for having an accent and for being different.
    - That lasted only about a year, thank goodness, but that year of torture was long enough.
- My experience made me very sensitive to the importance of inclusiveness.
  - I have great empathy for people who are considered "different" or who are just entering a new culture.
    - It's difficult and intimidating.
    - So please keep that in mind when you have new colleagues entering the workforce, or you have a new neighbor or a new club mate.
- As may be obvious to you, I have adapted to American culture over the past 30-some years.
  - But I don't ever want to forget my Colombian heritage.
  - It is as big a part of me as being a woman or an attorney.
  - It is part of who I am and I carry it with me every day. With pride.

But our goal should not be assimilation—it should be inclusion. Those are two very different things.

  - Assimilation makes it sound like you change to fit in to an existing culture.

- Inclusion, on the other hand, involves bringing together and harnessing diverse forces and resources.
  - Inclusion means creating an environment of involvement, respect, and connection that benefits from where the richness of ideas, backgrounds, and perspectives that diverse individuals bring.
  - And you millennials out there are the prototype example of a generation that values inclusion.
  - Good for you!
- Now one thing about being Latino is I am constantly asked to represent my culture and my heritage.
  - I have been asked to lead or participate in Diversity initiatives in almost every job I have held.
    - At NTIA I helped create the Diversity and Inclusion Council.
    - At Wiley Rein I Chair the Firm's Diversity and Inclusion Committee.
    - At Sprint I helped lead diversity training for the Government Affairs Group.
    - I led the Latino law student mentoring program at my first Firm.
    - And here at the FCC I participated in an interagency working group on Hispanics in the workplace.
  - But I enjoy doing that, because I am an enthusiastic supporter of diversity and inclusion
    - As President Obama said, "We are at our best when we draw on the talents of all parts of our society, and our greatest accomplishments are achieved when diverse perspectives are brought to bear to overcome our greatest challenges.
- So recognizing the contributions that Hispanics and Latinos have made to the United States is an important way that we can ensure more inclusion in our lives of diverse cultures and people.
- Therefore, I commend the FCC for holding these events, and I comment all of you for participating.
- So now I feel like I need to leave you with something inspirational.
  - To do that, I will borrow from someone else.
  - Many years ago—in fact it would have been in the last century-then U.S. attorney general spoke to the D.C. Hispanic Bar at its annual Equal Justice Awards Ceremony.
    - I have never forgotten the premise of her remarks: she told us—Never lose your idealism.
    - At that time, I was an attorney at the FCC, and it really struck a chord with me.

We should all strive to remember our ideliastic roots.

- Working in Washington can really wear that idealism down, but we should fight against that.
- By working at the FCC, you are serving every citizen of this country.
- Please remember that—and remember that each and every one of you contributes to the country.
- Whether you are enabling new innovative services, or are protecting consumers, or are providing information to the public—you are an important component of what we call public service.
- I hope you will see your role in the bigger, idealistic picture.

Thank you very much for allowing me to be a part of your celebration.

FirstNet: Opt-In/Opt-Out Provisions

March 29, 2017

Anna M. Gomez

Partner
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Overview

- Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act of 2012 Provisions
  - FirstNet
  - Governors
  - Opt Out Process
- Recent FCC and NTIA Actions
- Process and Timeline

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act Provisions: FirstNet

- Steps before "opt in/opt out" decision:

1. FirstNet completes the RFP process

2. FirstNet notifies each Governor of:
   - Completion of the RFP process;
   - Proposed plan for build-out in the State; and
   - Funding levels for the State as determined by NTIA



3

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act Provisions: FirstNet (cont'd)

- FirstNet State Plans

  - Web-based portal

  - FirstNet's approach to deploying the RAN
    - Planned phases of deployment;
    - Network policies; and
    - Services and capabilities to be provided in each state



4

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act — Governor

- Within 90 days after FirstNet notification, Governor must choose whether his/her state will:
  - Participate in the deployment of the NPSBN as proposed by FirstNet; or
  - Deploy its own radio access network (RAN) in the State
- If a state decides to opt out, Governor must notify FirstNet, NTIA, and the FCC

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act – Opt Out Process

- 180 days to develop/complete RFP for the construction, maintenance, and operation of State RAN
- Within same 180 days, submit alternate plan to the FCC demonstrating:
  - That the State will comply with the minimum technical interoperability requirements; and
  - Interoperability with the NPSBN
- If the FCC approves the plan:
  - State may apply to NTIA for a grant to construct the RAN
  - State shall apply to NTIA for spectrum lease with FirstNet

Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act – Opt Out (cont'd)

- To obtain a grant/lease, the State must show it has:
  - Technical ability to operate/funding to support the RAN;
  - Ability to maintain interoperability with the NPSBN;
  - Ability to complete the RAN within comparable timelines;
  - Cost-effectiveness of the State plan; and
  - Comparable security, coverage, and quality of service
- "Opt-out" States must pay any user fees for State use of elements of the FirstNet core network
- If the FCC disapproves the plan, FirstNet shall proceed with its original network deployment plan

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Recent FCC and NTIA Actions

- FCC
  - NPRM on Procedures for Review of Opt-Out Requests
- NTIA
  - Preliminary Guidance and Request for Comments
  - Federal Financing Opportunity Notice
    - Will provide details on application spectrum lease and grant program requirements
    - NTIA will issue no later than the date FirstNet delivers state plan

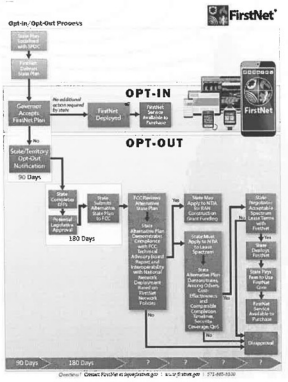
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Timeline

- FirstNet completes RFP process and notifies States
- 90 days after notification – Governor decision, notify FirstNet, NTIA, FCC
  - Opt-in – FirstNet issues purchase order to network partner
  - Opt-out – deployment delayed until completion of next steps
- 180 days after notification – complete state RFP process and submit alternative plan to FCC for approval
  - No timeline for FCC decision
- If FCC approves, submit request to NTIA for grant and FirstNet spectrum lease
  - No timeline for NTIA decision
  - FFO will establish filing deadline, tentatively 60 days after FCC approval
- If FCC disapproves, FirstNet moves forward

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FirstNet Timeline



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Increased Coverage with Aerial Communications – Drones, Satellite and more

I.W.C.E. 2017
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Increased Coverage with Aerial Communications – Drones, Satellite and More

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Alternative Coverage Methods

- Cells on Wheels (COWs)
- Flying COWs
- Satellites
- Balloons
- "Stratospheric Airships"

Wiley Rein LLP

Presenters

Clifton Basnight
Global Channel Manager
Thales Defense and Security Inc.

Tom Brinkoetter
Consultant
Anritsu Company

Ben D. Holycross
Radio Systems Manager
Polk County Division of Emergency Management

Casey Joseph
Vice President of Sales and Business Development
LS telcom, Inc.

Gerald Knoblach
Chairman & CEO
Space Data Corporation

Jinger Zeng
CEO
Dronesmith Technologies, Inc.

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1. All: Background from each panelist on what Spectrum Act/FirstNet means to you (this is for those in audience that don't really know FirstNet/the Spectrum Act provisions).
2. Jason: How does FirstNet interpret being an independent authority? Describe FirstNet's relationship with the Department of Commerce, NTIA, and the FCC.
3. Stephanie: AT&T is undertaking a very risky and complicated endeavor. What prepared AT&T to assume this role?
4. Jeff: How do you view FirstNet is doing in fulfilling the FirstNet legislation crafters' vision for FirstNet? What do you see are the implications of a state opting out?
5. Jeff: Commenters are urging the FCC to streamline its review of opt out state alternative plans. What do you think is the Act's purpose for the FCC's review?
6. Marsha: Opt-out states must also present their alternative plans to NTIA to get approved to seek a spectrum lease by FirstNet, and to qualify for a grant for their capital expenditures. How detailed will be the necessary showings by the state opt out plans? Will you use the FirstNet state plan template as a basis for your review?
7. All: The process as we know it is that FirstNet/AT&T will develop draft state plans and provide them to the states some time this summer. In the fall, FirstNet/AT&T will provide the governors the final state plans, which will trigger the 90-day deadline for governors to choose whether to opt out of the FirstNet RAN deployment within their states/territories. What happens in between all of this? Does FirstNet begin providing service, such as via the early builders, or via states that choose to opt in early?
8. Stephanie: What exactly is a Covered Leasing Agreement under the Act?
9. Jason: There are some incumbent operations in the FirstNet spectrum today. FirstNet is relocating some 700 MHz narrowband users -how is that progressing? What about the early builders? What will happen with them now that FirstNet has awarded its contract?
10. Jason: What is FirstNet's process for entertaining requests for experimental authority in Band 14? Stephanie: Will AT&T be involved in those requests once AT&T has access to the spectrum capacity and is providing service in Band 14?
11. All: Many of the legal issues with FirstNet are matters of first impression. Can you give me some examples of issues that presented challenges for you?
12. Jason: Although FirstNet is exempt from the Administrative Procedure Act, it nevertheless issued a number of preliminary and then interpretations of the FirstNet statutory provisions. Do you foresee FirstNet issuing any additional legal interpretations?
13. Jeff: APCO is a strong supporter of transitioning to next generation 911. While FirstNet is not directly responsible for that transition, it does play an important role. Can you tell us about APCO's vision for FirstNet and NG911 and what you hope you see in the near future?

BIOS

Stephanie Baldanzi

Senior Legal Counsel, AT&T

- Spent most of her 18 years at AT&T supporting AT&T Federal government contracts law, spends much of her time on FirstNet
- Before that, she spent a number of years at Ober Kaler Grimes & Shriver
- BA-Dartmouth, JD from GWU law

Jeff Cohen

Chief Counsel, APCO International

- Prior to joining APCO, served as FCC detailee to the minority staff of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, and was one of the authors of the FirstNet legislation

- At FCC, Jeff *served* as Senior Legal Counsel to the Chief of the FCC's Pub Safety and HLS Bureau
- Prior to that, Jeff served as Partner at Wilkinson Barker

Jason Karp

Chief Counsel, FirstNet

- Prior to FirstNet, *served* as Director of Legal Services at Accenture
- Prior to Accenture, held senior roles with the FCC, Net 2000 Communications, MCI, Kelley Drye and Warren, and E-Centives.
- Jason has a BSE in Elecrical Engineering from Duke Unviersity and a JD from NYU

Marsha MacBride

Associate Administrator for the Office of Public Safety Communications, NTIA

- Prior to being named to run the Office of Public Safety, Marsha also served as special advisor to the NTIA Administrator where she oversaw NTIA's policy and international offices.
- Marsha practiced law for six years before joining the FCC, where she spent 12 years in various roles, including as Chief of Staff to former Chairman Michael Powell.
- Marsha also served as Executive Vice President at the National Association for Broadcasters.
- Marsha has a JD from GWU Law and a BA from Douglass College, Rutgers University.

Wiley Rein LLP

FirstNet: Developments, Challenges, and Opportunities in the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network

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First Responder Network Authority (FirstNet)

- Nationwide public safety broadband network (NPSBN)
- FirstNet must work with public safety, federal agencies, states, territories, and localities
- Governors, NTIA and the FCC have important roles
- FirstNet awarded its contract

Wiley Rein LLP

Presenters

Stephanie Baldanzi
Senior Legal Counsel
AT&T

Jeff Cohen
Chief Counsel
APCO

Jason Karp
Chief Counsel
FirstNet

Marsha MacBride
Associate Administrator, Office of Public Safety
National Telecommunications and Information Administration

Wiley Rein LLP

ANNA M. GOMEZ

ADDITIONAL WRITINGS

1. Columbia Communications Corporation, Memorandum Opinion and Order, October 18, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-00-702A1.pdf*
2. Thomson Consumer Electronics, Inc. Part 68 Waiver Request, Order, September 16, 1998, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-98-1867A1.pdf*
3. 1 DAY UNTIL DTV TRANSITION, Public Notice, June 11, 2009, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-291357A1.pdf*
4. United States Department of State Request for Modification, Memorandum Opinion and Order, August 19, 2004, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-04-2592A1.pdf*
5. Letter to North American Power Brokers, May 19, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-958A1.pdf*
6. New York Department of Public Service Petition for Expedited Waiver, Order, December 4, 1998, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-98-2310A1.pdf*
7. North American Numbering Plan, Order, December 30, 1998, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-98-2648A1.pdf*
8. Ameritech Petition for LATA Boundary Modification, Memorandum Opinion and Order, June 4, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-98-2648A1.pdf*
9. U.S. West Petition for LATA Boundary Modification, June 4, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-1075A1.pdf*
10. Malheur Home Telephone Company Petition for LATA Boundary Modification, June 4, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-1076A1.pdf*
11. BellSouth Petition for LATA Boundary Modification, March 19, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-526A1.pdf*
12. U.S. WEST, Toledo Telephone, and Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission Petition for LATA Boundary Modification, July 2, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-1307A1.pdf*
13. Bell Atlantic Petition for LATA Boundary Modification, March 29, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-558A1.pdf*
14. Southwestern Bell Petition for LATA Boundary Modification, June 4, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-1073A1.pdf*
15. Implementation of the Pay Telephone Reclassification and Compensation Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Order, December 31, 1998, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-98-2644A1.pdf*
16. Implementation of the Local Competition Provisions of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, Order, April 22, 1999, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-99-781A1.pdf*
17. Columbia Communications Corporation, Memorandum Opinion and Order, April 5, 2000, *https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DA-00-702A1.pdf*

ADDITIONAL SPEECHES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND PRESENTATIONS

1. Silicon Flatirons, The Internet's Midlife Crisis | Fireside Chat: Alan Davidson & Anna Gomez, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LY-2A7i88m8*
2. High Tech Forum Podcast, August 5, 2022, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sr0kCWhvcag*
3. Silicon Flatirons, Risk Assessment in Spectrum Policy Panel, October 26, 2015, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fnortonsafe.search.ask.com%2F&source_ve_path=MzY4NDIsMjg2NjQsMTY0NTA2&feature=emb_share&v=iD05Jc3Y1x4* (begin at 24:41).
4. Federal Infrastructure Investments in Latino Communities: Broadband, July 26, 2021, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?embeds_referring_euri=https%3A%2F%2Fnortonsafe.search.ask.com%2F&source_ve_path=MzY4NDIsMzY4NDIsMzY4NDIsMzY4NDIsMzY4NDIsMjg2NjQsMTY0NTA2&feature=emb_share&v=1mggfNucO4I* (begin at 18:37)
5. Interview with Anna M. Gomez, Attorney at law, Partner, Wiley Rein LLP, USA, November 17, 2014, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9vdS33QSRDI*

6. MMTC, Entrepreneurial Opportunities with the Federal Government, August 2, 2012, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EW7ARCpgRaY* (begin at 2:43)
7. Silicon Flatirons, Taking Stock—Progress and Challenges, September 16, 2016, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSNUbmDwJdo* (begin 15:23)
8. NTIA ISART Conference, May 6, 2022, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vSNUbmDwJdo* (begin 17:12)
9. Silicon Flatirons Spectrum Policy Initiative, October 14, 2022, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=v4lG1Q4TwI8* (begin 0:29)
10. MMTC Broadband Adoption Luncheon, Aug 15, 2011, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yupa_Vn31PM* (begin 52:28)
11. Public Knowledge Back to the Spectrum Future, June 2022, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mvjIMCiKEOM*
12. AUVSI, Understanding the Why and How of Unmanned Systems in Engineering and Construction Firms Webinar, March 2020, *https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aIvqloQcSYk* (begin at 29:57)

The CHAIR. Thank you, Ms. Gomez. Thank you very much for that statement and your willingness to serve. And thank you for all the capacities you have been filling in the telecommunications sector. Thank you. Mr. Carr, welcome. Look forward to your statement.

STATEMENT OF BRENDAN CARR, NOMINEE TO BE A MEMBER, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Mr. CARR. Thank you so much. Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, distinguished members of the Committee, it is a privilege to appear before you. I want to start by expressing my thanks to the President for nominating me to serve another term on the FCC. I am honored to have this committee consider that nomination.

I also want to thank you and your staff for the courtesies you have shown me in our recent meetings and for giving me the opportunity to learn more about the communications issues that are important to you, your states, and your constituents.

Our discussions only underscored the very meaningful role the FCC plays in the lives of all Americans, whether it is promoting broadband deployment, protecting consumers, or advancing public safety.

While serving on the Commission, I have welcomed the opportunity to get outside the Beltway. I have had the chance to spend time in many of your states. I have heard firsthand about the connectivity challenges that many still face and the opportunity that broadband enables.

If I am fortunate enough to be reconfirmed, I would welcome the chance to continue working with all of you on ways the FCC can advance the public interest. Now, with the Committee's indulgence, I would like to take a moment to introduce my family, which has grown since I last sat before this body as a nominee.

First, my father is here, Tom Carr. My wonderful wife, Mikayla, and our three just terrific boys, Quinn, who is nine, Emmet who is six, and Lachlan who is three. We are just blessed to be their parents. I also want to extend my congratulations to Ms. Gomez and Ms. Damelin on their nominations, and to Commissioner Starks on his renomination.

While I have had the good fortune of working closely with many of the members today, I wanted to take an opportunity to reintro-

duce myself more broadly to the Committee. Since 2017, I have had the privilege of serving on the Commission, but my time at the agency began well before then. I first joined the FCC as a staffer over a decade ago and later served as the agency's general counsel.

I first walked into the FCC building well before all of that, it was over 20 years ago now, during law school, when I interned at the agency for Commissioner Abernathy. Ironically, as a Commissioner, I ended up with the same office suite that Commissioner Abernathy had.

So, every morning our old building, I had the chance to walk past the intern desk where I sat many years before. As a Commissioner, I have had the privilege of seeing firsthand the transformative power of a high speed connection.

Take Tommi, for example, a mother of five who I met in 2018 in Philadelphia's Sharswood neighborhood. Many people had an easier path in life than Tommi. She grew up in public housing. She dropped out of high school after having her first child. For the next 16 years, she made debt collection calls, a job that she described as a dead end job.

Tommi knew that she could do more with her life, so she enrolled in Philadelphia's Orleans Technical College. Tommi earned a perfect 4.0. She got a job at the Public Housing Authority and was able to buy a first home for herself and her children.

When we met, she was just starting a master's program in mental health so that she could give back to her community. She told me that none of this would have been possible without a broadband connection. She said broadband is the backbone of a community, for finding a job, for education.

Tommi talked about how she used a high speed connection to do schoolwork, to apply for jobs, and to gain admission into that master's program. Tommi is an inspiration, and getting the chance to meet her is something that has stuck with me. But a lot of ways Tommi's story isn't a one off. I have heard similar stories about the power of connectivity on visits to small towns and communities across the country.

That is why I am proud of the progress the FCC has been making. But despite the long strides we have made, challenges remain. The job isn't finished. That is why I discuss at greater length in my written testimony three of the top issues that I think the FCC should keep working on.

First is ensuring affordable, high speed Internet service for all Americans. That means closing the digital divide. Second is maintaining U.S. leadership in wireless. It is vital for our efforts here in America, but also for our geopolitical leadership. And third is promoting a secure communications network.

If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to make more progress on these and many, many other fronts. In closing, I want to thank you again, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Committee, for considering my nomination. I look forward to your questions.

[The prepared statement and biographical information of Mr. Carr follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF BRENDAN CARR, NOMINEE TO BE A COMMISSIONER, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and distinguished Members of the Committee, it is a privilege to appear before you today. I want to start by expressing my thanks to the President for nominating me to serve another term as a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission. I am honored to have this Committee consider that nomination.

At the outset, I want to thank you and your staffs for the courtesies you have shown me in our recent meetings and for giving me the opportunity to learn more about the technology and communications issues that are important to you, your states, and your constituents. Our discussions underscored the very meaningful role the FCC plays in the lives of all Americans—whether it is promoting broadband deployment, protecting consumers, or advancing public safety.

While serving on the Commission, I have welcomed the opportunity to get outside the Beltway. I have spent time in many of your states and met with parents, teachers, public safety officials, health care providers, farmers, and community leaders impacted by FCC policies as well as the telecom and tower crews that are the unsung heroes of our Nation's communications networks. I have heard firsthand about the connectivity challenges that many still face and the opportunities that broadband enables. If I am fortunate enough to be confirmed to another term, I would welcome the chance to continue working with all of you on ways the FCC can advance the public interest.

With the Committee's indulgence, I would like to take a moment to introduce my family, which has grown since I last sat before this body as a nominee—my wonderful wife, Machalagh, and our three terrific boys: Quinn, who is 9 years old; Emmet, who is 6 years old; and Lachlan, who is 3 years old. We are just blessed to be their parents.

I also want to extend my congratulations to Ms. Gomez on her nomination and to Commissioner Starks on his renomination. Ms. Gomez's career demonstrates a longstanding commitment to public service—from her leadership in the State Department's Bureau of Cyberspace and Digital Policy to her previous service as staff counsel in the U.S. Senate and roles at the FCC, White House, and National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). Commissioner Starks is also an exceptionally thoughtful and dedicated public servant, as evidenced by his earlier service at the DOJ and in the FCC's Enforcement Bureau. I have welcomed the chance to work collaboratively with him for a number of years now on the Commission. I would also like to congratulate Ms. Fara Damelin on her nomination to serve as Inspector General of the FCC. As a Commissioner, I have been proactive in my approach towards working with the FCC's Office of Inspector General. If confirmed, I would welcome the chance to work with her on promoting accountability across FCC programs.

While I have had the good fortune of working closely with many of the Members here today, I wanted to take an opportunity to reintroduce myself to the Committee.

Since 2017, I have had the privilege of serving as a Commissioner at the FCC. It has been the highest honor of my professional life. It has been a tremendously rewarding experience, too, to serve alongside my fellow Commissioners—including Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel and Commissioner Nathan Simington—and to work closely with the many talented lawyers, engineers, analysts, and other professionals that work at the FCC.

But my time at the FCC began well before 2017. Indeed, I have long admired the agency's work and believe deeply in its mission. I first joined the Commission as a staffer over a decade ago. I worked initially as a staff attorney in the Office of General Counsel's Administrative Law Division. My job was to provide advice to the policymakers in the agency's Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, and International Bureau. Later, I had the chance to work on those same issues as an advisor to then Commissioner Pai. After that, I had the opportunity to return "home" to the Office of General Counsel and serve as the agency's General Counsel.

Even with all of those experiences, I still remember the first time I walked into the FCC building. It was over 20 years ago now, during law school, when I interned at the agency. During one of those internships, I worked for Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy. Ironically, as a Commissioner, I ended up with the same office suite as Commissioner Abernathy. So every morning I had the chance to walk past the intern desk where I sat many years ago.

After graduating from law school, I accepted a job at a law firm where I could gain broad experience working on various telecommunications issues. Later, I

clerked for a judge on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, which helped spark my interest in public service.

I have learned a lot over the past two decades working on communications law and policy. I have come to know and admire the FCC's terrific staff. They are passionate about delivering for the public interest, and they truly are the agency's best asset.

As Commissioner, I have had the privilege of seeing the transformative power of a high-speed connection firsthand. Take Tommi, for example, a mother of five who I met in Philadelphia's Sharswood neighborhood in 2018. Many people have had an easier path in life. Tommi grew up in public housing. She dropped out of high school after giving birth to her first child. For the next 16 years, she made calls for a debt collection agency, which she described as a "dead end job." Tommi knew that she could do more with her life. So she enrolled in Philadelphia's Orleans Technical College. It was "four years of peanut butter and jelly sandwiches—often made for me by my kids," she said.

Tommi earned a perfect 4.0 GPA. She got a job at the Public Housing Authority and was able to buy a first home for herself and her children. When we met, she was just starting a master's program in mental health so that she could give back to her community. She told me that none of this would have been possible without a broadband connection. "Broadband is the backbone of a community—for finding a job, for education," she said. Tommi talked about how she used a high-speed connection to do schoolwork, to apply for jobs, and to gain admission to her master's program.

Tommi is an inspiration. Getting the chance to meet her is something that has stuck with me. But in a lot of ways, Tommi's story is not a one off. I've heard similar stories about the power of connectivity on visits to small towns and communities across the country. But despite the long strides we've made, challenges remain. The job isn't finished.

So I want to focus here on three of the top issues facing the FCC going forward—ensuring affordable, high-speed Internet service for all Americans; maintaining U.S. leadership in wireless; and promoting secure communications networks. If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to work alongside my FCC colleagues, your offices, and all stakeholders on these challenges.

First, the FCC has an obligation and an historic opportunity to ensure that every American has access to an affordable, high-speed Internet connection. Over the past two and a half years, in particular, the FCC has implemented new support programs passed by Congress that have benefited millions of Americans. We have also worked on a bipartisan basis to bolster competition for high-speed services. And I have been pleased to lead a telehealth initiative that has extended the benefits of these services to low-income Americans and veterans. In fact, since 2018, I've had the privilege of visiting more than 50 different health care facilities across 25 states. Almost every provider I've visited—from Spokane to Houston—shared a similar message about the spike we are seeing in telehealth and how the FCC's initiatives are helping them meet this demand. But there is additional work to be done on the digital divide.

FCC action on permitting reform is one example. At the onset of the 5G era, it was clear that the FCC's infrastructure rules needed an update. Back then, we moved quickly to modernize the agency's approach, and we cut billions of dollars' worth of red tape. Those reforms delivered results too. They allowed our private sector to bring thousands of families across the digital divide, to keep Americans connected during the pandemic, and to outperform dire predictions that the United States would cede leadership in 5G to China. While we made good progress on infrastructure reforms, the job is far from finished. To end the digital divide, we need to make even more progress on permitting reform. Closing the digital divide also requires the FCC to remain vigilant in overseeing the programs we administer. FCC action to combat waste, fraud, and abuse is going to be vital to ensure that we deliver on the goals Congress has articulated. If confirmed, I intend to continue working on promoting sound accountability measures.

Second, the FCC has an important role to play in maintaining U.S. leadership in wireless. America led the world in 4G wireless technologies and this, in turn, created jobs and economic opportunities in communities across the country. The challenge is to ensure that we maintain that leadership as 5G and other advanced and competitive wireless networks (terrestrial and satellite alike) continue to roll out. Doing so will prove vital to America's geopolitical leadership.

Maintaining and extending U.S. leadership in wireless will require the FCC to continue an all-of-the-above approach to spectrum. That means continuing to work with all stakeholders to deliver a mix of low-, mid-, and high-band spectrum into the market. And we need to ensure that providers can choose from a mix of licensed,

unlicensed, and shared spectrum bands to meet demand—all while protecting the interests of incumbents. If confirmed, I would continue the work necessary to ensure U.S. leadership in wireless.

Third, the FCC must further strengthen the security of our communications networks. America's communications ecosystem is facing an unprecedented set of national security challenges—from insecure gear built by entities like Huawei and ZTE remaining in too many portions of our networks to carriers like China Mobile and China Telecom seeking to expand their offerings. The FCC has taken numerous strong steps over the past few years to meet this challenge—including its recent work to implement the bipartisan Secure Equipment Act—but more work remains.

That work includes completing the process of removing insecure network gear and remaining vigilant as bad actors continue to seek out loopholes in our rules. If confirmed, promoting the safety and security of America's communications networks would remain a top priority for me.

At bottom, we have a tremendous opportunity in the technology and communications space to enact policies that will close the digital divide, advance U.S. leadership, and secure our communications networks. If reconfirmed, I would look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues on these important issues and many more.

* * *

In closing, I want to thank you again Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and Members of the Committee, for considering my nomination. I look forward to answering your questions.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Brendan Thomas Carr.

2. Position to which nominated: Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission.

3. Date of Nomination: May 30, 2023.

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Residence: Information not released to the public.
Office: 45 L Street NE, Washington, DC 20554.

5. Date and Place of Birth: January 5, 1979; Washington, D.C.

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Spouse: Machalagh Carr Chief of Staff, Speaker Kevin McCarthy, U.S. House of Representatives.

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

Law school:

Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law
Attended: August 2002–May 2005
Degree: J.D. and Certificate, Institute for Communications Law Studies, May 2005

College:

Georgetown University
Attended: August 1998–July 2001
Degree: BA July 2001

College:

James Madison University
Attended: August 1997–June 1998
Degree: None; transferred to Georgetown University after freshman year

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management-level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

1. Federal Communications Commission
   - Commissioner (Aug 2017 to present)*
2. Federal Communications Commission

- General Counsel (Jan 2017–Aug 2017)*

3. Federal Communications Commission
   - Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner Ajit Pai (Feb 2014–Jan 2017)†
4. Federal Communications Commission
   - Attorney Advisor, Office of General Counsel (June 2012–Feb 2014)†
5. Wiley Rein LLP
   - Associate (Sept 2005–July 2008 and Aug 2009–May 2012)†
6. U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit
   - Law Clerk, Judge Dennis W. Shedd (Aug 2008–July 2009)†
7. Venable, Baetjer, Howard, & Civiletti LLP
   - Paralegal (Sept. 2001–Aug 2002)
8. Credit Debt Solutions
   - Sales (June 2001–Aug 2001)

* Denotes managerial-level job that relates to the position for which I have been nominated

† Denotes non-managerial job that relates to the position for which I have been nominated

9. Attach a copy of your résumé.

A copy is attached as Attachment 1.

10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.

- In November 2017, in connection with my service on the FCC, I was appointed by the FCC to serve on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service and the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations.
- Since about December 2020, I have been the FCC Representative to an OSHA strategic partnership with industry that aims to improve safety for telecom workers.

11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.

I have been a member of the Federal Communications Bar Association (FCBA). While I served a three-year, uncompensated term as a Member of the FCBA's Executive Committee, I was not an officer of the FCBA. Moreover, that three-year term expired at the end of June 2017.

12. Please list each membership you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

- American Bar Association
  - I was a member of the ABA from August 2013 until February 2015. During my time as a member, I served as Vice-Chair (from August 2013 to approximately February 2014) and then as Co-Chair (from approximately February 2014 to February 2015) of the Communications Committee of the ABA's Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice Section.
- District of Columbia Bar
  - As a lawyer, I have been a member of the D.C. bar from 2006 to present.
- Federalist Society
  - I first joined as a member in 2007.
- Federal Communications Bar Association
  - The Federal Communications Bar Association or FCBA is a voluntary, professional organization that provides networking opportunities and hosts events related to telecommunications law and regulation. I first joined as a member in 2005. I have held a number of positions with the FCBA that may be responsive to this question: (1) Member, FCBA Charity Auction Committee (2011), (2) Co-Chair, FCBA Young Lawyers Committee (2011–13), (3) Chair, FCBA Charity Auction Committee (2012), (4) Member, FCBA Nominations Committee (2013), and (5) Member, FCBA Executive Committee (2013–2017).
- Maryland Bar
  - As a lawyer, I have been a member of the Maryland Bar from 2005 to present.
- Maryland State Bar Association

- I was an active member of this voluntary bar association from 2005 to around 2010.

- University Club of Washington
  - I was a member of this social/athletic club from 2006 to approximately 2017.
- Good Shepard Catholic Church, Alexandria, VA
  - My family and I have been parishioners at this church since we moved into the area in June 2021. Previously, we had been parishioners at St. Peters on Capitol Hill and St. Matthews Cathedral in Washington DC.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non-elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

None other than my current position as an FCC Commissioner, which did not involve any campaign or campaign debt.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

None.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of $200 or more for the past ten years.

In 2011, I donated $500 to Marco Rubio's 2010 campaign for Senate in connection with the retirement of debt.

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

Distinguished Recent Alumni Award (2020), Presented by The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law

Regulatory Champion (2019), Presented by the National Association of Tower Erectors (NATE)

Jerry B. Duvall Public Service Award (2019), Presented by the Phoenix Center for Advanced Legal & Economic Policy Studies

Workforce Champion (2019), Presented by the Wireless Infrastructure Association

Mobile Life Award (2019), Presented by the CTIA Wireless Foundation

Dean's Award in Appreciation for Dedicated Service to the Communications Law Student Association, Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (2005)

Bishop Scholarship, Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law (2002–2005)

Note and Comment Editor, *Catholic University Law Review* (2004–2005)

Second Honors, Georgetown University (Fall 1999)

Dean's List, Georgetown University (Spring 2000)

17. List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

Since I joined the Commission in 2017, my op-eds or letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, and similar publications are listed and can be found at *https://www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/brendan-carr/op-eds, https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC,* and *https://www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/brendan-carr*

In my personal capacity, I joined with other contributors to complete a chapter in the Heritage Foundation's *Mandate For Leadership* series, titled "Federal Communications Commission," which is available here *https://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_CHAPTER-28.pdf*

Publications that pre-date my time serving on the FCC are listed in response to the question below.

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (*e.g.,* PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

Since joining the Commission in 2017, my speeches, statements, and letters can be found at *https://www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/brendan-carr* and *https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC*

In terms of my published materials that pre-date my time as an FCC Commissioner, I have the following to list based on my recollection and research:

Panel Discussion, Modernizing Europe's Digital Rules, European Internet Forum and GSMA Mobile World Congress 2017, Barcelona, Spain (February 26, 2017)

Panel Discussion, Meet the 8th Floor International Legal Advisors, Federal Communications Bar Association, Washington, D.C. (October 24, 2016)

Panel Discussion, Hot Policy Topics, Competitive Carrier Association 2016 Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington (September 21, 2016)

Panel Discussion, Emerging Issues in Wireless: The FCC and NTIA Perspective, TIA Super Mobility 2016, Las Vegas, Nevada (September 7, 2016)

Remarks at New Direction's Digital Single Market Summit, Brussels, Belgium (October 14, 2015)

Panel Discussion, Washington Goes Mobile, FCC & NTIA Perspective on the Issues, CTIA Super Mobility 2015, Las Vegas, Nevada (September 9, 2015)

Panel Discussion, The Regulatory Landscape: Updates and Hot Issues in Washington, Competitive Carrier Association 2014 Annual Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada (September 9, 2014)

Panel Discussion, A View from Washington, PCIA's 2014 Wireless Infrastructure Show, Orlando, Florida (May 20, 2014)

Panel Discussion, Meet the Wireless Advisors, Federal Communications Bar Association, Washington, D.C. (March 20, 2014)

Co-Author, Developments in Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice 2013 (Communications), ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice (2013)

Co-Author, "Fifth Circuit Upholds FCC's Shot Clock/Tower Siting Ruling," Wiley Rein LLP (Winter 2012)

Co-Author, "FCC Provides Guidance on Net Neutrality Rules," Wiley Rein LLP (Summer 2011)

Co-Author, "FCC Adopts Net Neutrality Rules," Wiley Rein LLP (Winter 2010)

Speaker, "Regulatory Year In Review," 37th Annual ACUTA Conference, Las Vegas (Summer 2008)

Speaker, "Regulatory Update From Washington," 36th Annual ACUTA Conference, Miami (Summer 2007)

Presenter, "E-Discovery: What Your Lawyer Wants From You," Voice Report Podcast (Spring 2007)

Speaker, "2006 Legislative & Regulatory Wrap-up," ACUTA Seminar, Washington (Winter 2007)

Author, "How Federal Preemption Helps Tower Owners," Above Ground Level Magazine (Fall 2006)

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

In addition to the listings provided in response to the previous questions, all of my formal public statements and an extensive listing of statements in news articles can be found at *https://www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/brendan-carr/news* and *https://www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/brendan-carr*

An extensive listing of other public statements can be found at *https://twitter.com/BrendanCarrFCC* and *https://www.linkedin.com/in/brendan-carr-0030b126*

20. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an "alias" or "handle", including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

Twitter: @BrendanCarrFCC (active)

LinkedIn: *https://www.linkedin.com/in/brendan-carr-0030b126* (active)
Instagram: @BrendanCarrUSA (active)
Parler: @BrendanCarrUSA (dormant)
Truth: @BrendanCarrFCC (dormant)
Facebook: Facebook.com/brendan.carr.31 (active)
Clubhouse: @BrendanCarrUSA (active)
Callin: @BrendanCarrFCC (active)
Medium: @BrendanCarrFCC (active)

21. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

All of my written testimony is listed at
https://www.fcc.gov/about/leadership/brendan-carr/testimony

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

I have had the honor of working at the FCC since 2012. In the decade since, I have gained invaluable experience in a number of different jobs at the Commission. While working as an attorney advisor in the Office of General Counsel, I focused on providing legal advice to FCC staff in the agency's wireless, public safety, and international bureaus, and I learned a lot about the agency's processes and procedures. Following that experience, I served for nearly three years as an advisor to FCC Commissioner Ajit Pai on wireless, public safety, and international issues. I then had the honor of serving as the FCC's General Counsel, where I provided legal advice to the Commission and FCC staff on all matters within the agency's jurisdiction.

For the past five years, I have served as a Commissioner and have worked with my FCC colleagues to advance the public interest on a range of significant agency matters—from our efforts to end the digital divide to standing up new telehealth initiatives and working to secure America's communications networks.

I want to continue serving as a Commissioner because I believe in public service and in the FCC's mission. The American public has much to gain from telecom policies that promote their interests, that create good paying jobs, that grow the economy, and that help unleash new innovations.

I want to continue the work needed to extend the benefits of connectivity to even more Americans—to ensure that everyone has a fair shot at affordable, next-generation broadband. Whether it is promoting broadband infrastructure deployment, facilitating the ongoing roll out of 5G technologies, protecting consumers, or advancing public safety, the agency and its talented staff make a real difference in the lives of all Americans. It would be an honor and a privilege to continue working as an FCC Commissioner and, alongside the many skilled professionals at the agency and my Commission colleagues, help put telecom policies in place that will advance the public interest.

23. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confirmed, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

Every FCC Commissioner has an obligation to ensure that the agency has proper management and accounting controls in place. In my time as a Commissioner, I have worked to promote these interests and put safeguards in place that identify and address any instances of waste, fraud, and abuse. If confirmed to serve another term, I would work with my FCC colleagues to advance our shared interests in proper management and accounting controls.

With respect to my own management experience, I have had the chance to manage many major FCC initiatives since being sworn in to serve as a Commissioner in 2017. In terms of additional management experience, I previously served as the FCC's General Counsel, which includes overseeing a staff of about 70 people. The FCC's Office of General Counsel reviews nearly every major action the FCC takes and is responsible for advising all Commissioners, the heads of the agency's bureaus and offices, and all FCC staff on matters before the agency. The FCC's Office of General Counsel consists primarily of an Administrative Law Division, which provides FCC leadership and staff with legal advice on a broad range of communications and general administrative law issues, and a Litigation Division, which represents the Commission in Federal court when parties challenge an agency action.

As the General Counsel, my job was to supervise and support that team. I worked to accomplish this by being proactive, meeting formally and informally with the professionals in the group, timely reviewing, drafting, and providing feedback on matters, and actively helping the team to identify and implement practical solutions to the many questions that are presented to the Office of General Counsel for review.

24. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

1. *Ensuring Affordable, High-Speed Internet Service for All Americans.* The FCC has an obligation and an historic opportunity to ensure that every American has access to an affordable, high-speed Internet connection. Meeting this challenge is vital for economic opportunity, education, health care, and much more. I have been working alongside my FCC colleagues to meet this challenge by standing up unprecedented new affordability programs, removing unnecessary barriers to buildout, taking actions to promote competition, and launching new telehealth initiatives that focus on low-income Americans and veterans. The FCC has a lot of work remaining to ensure that it fully delivers on our broadband goals. Meeting that challenge is one of the agency's top priorities.
2. *Maintaining U.S. Leadership in Wireless.* America led the world in 4G wireless technologies and this, in turn, created jobs and economic opportunities in communities across the country. The challenge is to ensure that we maintain that leadership as 5G and other advanced and competitive wireless networks (terrestrial and satellite alike) continue to roll out. Doing so will prove vital to America's geopolitical leadership. Maintaining and extending that leadership will require the FCC to continue an all-of-the-above approach to spectrum. That means continuing to work with all stakeholders to deliver a mix of low-, mid-, and high-band spectrum into the market. And we need to ensure that providers can choose from a mix of licensed, unlicensed, and shared spectrum bands to meet demand—all while protecting the interests of incumbents.
3. *Ensuring Secure Communications Networks.* America's communications networks are facing an unprecedented set of national security challenges—from insecure gear built by entities like Huawei and ZTE remaining in too many portions of our networks to carriers like China Mobile and China Telecom seeking to connect to our networks. The FCC has taken historic steps over the past few years to meet this challenge—including its recent work to implement the bipartisan Secure Equipment Act—but more work remains, including completing the process of removing insecure network gear and remaining vigilant as bad actors continue to seek out loopholes that can allow them to keep offering service in this country.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include information related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

I have a 401(k) that I set up in 2005 when I started working at Wiley Rein LLP. Neither I nor my former employer have made any further contributions to the defined contribution plan after my separation from my former employer in 2012.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, formal or informal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

None.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None. In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the FCC's career ethics officials to identify any actual or apparent conflicts of interest, and on April 19, 2023, I signed an Ethics Agreement with the FCC's Designated Agency Ethics Official. If confirmed, any actual or apparent conflicts of interest that may arise will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the Ethics Agreement.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None. In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the FCC's career ethics officials to identify any actual or apparent conflicts of interest, and on April 19, 2023, I signed an Ethics Agreement with the FCC's Designated Agency

Ethics Official. If confirmed, any actual or apparent conflicts of interest that may arise will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the Ethics Agreement.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None. In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the FCC's career ethics officials to identify any actual or apparent conflicts of interest, and on April 19, 2023, I signed an Ethics Agreement with the FCC's Designated Agency Ethics Official. If confirmed, any actual or apparent conflicts of interest that may arise will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the Ethics Agreement.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy. None.

C. LEGAL MATTERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group? If yes:

a. Provide the name of court, agency, association, committee, or group;
b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;
c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;
d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

On February 23, 2018, I participated as a panelist alongside another FCC Commissioner on a panel at the Conservative Political Action Conference (CPAC). The U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC) received an allegation that my participation in that panel violated the Hatch Act. OSC completed its investigation and on May 16, 2018 wrote me a two-page letter stating that "OSC has concluded that you did not violate the Hatch Act." OSC concluded its letter by stating "we are closing our file on this matter."

I have attached a copy of that letter as Attachment 2.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain. No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain. No.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination. None.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority? Yes.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee? Yes.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

ATTACHMENT 1

BRENDAN CARR

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC
Commissioner (August 2017–Present)
- Work with FCC colleagues to advance the public interest on all matters within the FCC's jurisdiction, including extending affordable, high-speed Internet to all Americans

General Counsel (January 2017–August 2017)
- Provide legal advice to the Commission and lead the FCC's 70-person Office of General Counsel, including its administrative law, general law, and litigation divisions

Legal Advisor, Office of Commissioner Ajit Pai (February 2014 to January 2017)
- Provide legal and policy advice to Commissioner Ajit Pai

Attorney-Advisor, Office of General Counsel (June 2012–February 2014)
- Provide legal counsel to the FCC's wireless, international, public safety, and engineering bureaus and offices

Wiley Rein LLP, Washington, DC
Associate, Communications and Appellate Groups (Fall 2005–Fall 2008; Fall 2009–Summer 2012)
- Provide counsel on various tech and telecom issues

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, The Honorable Dennis Shedd, Columbia, SC
Law Clerk (Fall 2008–Fall 2009)
- Researched and drafted opinions and bench memoranda

U.S. House of Representatives, Committee on Energy and Commerce, Washington, DC
Legal Intern, Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet (Spring 2004)

Federal Communications Commission, Washington, DC
Legal Intern, Office of Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy (Fall 2003)
Law Clerk, Enforcement Bureau, Spectrum Enforcement Division (Summer 2003)

EDUCATION:

Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, Washington, DC
J.D. *Magna Cum Laude* and **Certificate,** Institute for Communications Law Studies (May 2005)
Catholic University Law Review, Note and Comment Editor; President, Communications Law Student Association; Recipient, Dean's Award; Bishop Scholar
GPA: 3.592 (top 10 percent)

Georgetown University, Georgetown College, Washington, DC
B.A. in Government with minors in History and Anthropology (May 2001)
Second Honors; Dean's List; Presented research paper at the Inter-disciplinary Student Conference
GPA: 3.456

ATTACHMENT 2

Question 17

List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

DATE	TITLE (Publication)	LINK
4/21/2023	Co-Author, "Mandate for Leadership: the Conservative Promise" Chapter 28: Federal Communications Commission, Heritage Foundation	*https://thf_media.s3.amazonaws.com/project2025/2025_MandateForLeadership_CHAPTER-28.pdf*

DATE	TITLE (Publication)	LINK
8/22/2022	Co-Author, "Protecting students from exposure to harmful online content," The Hill	*https://thehill.com/opinion/congress-blog/3611416-protecting-students-from-exposure-to-harmful-online-content/*
5/4/2022	Author, "Censorship Is The Threat To Democracy, Not Elon Musk," The Daily Wire	*https://www.dailywire.com/news/censorship-is-the-threat-to-democracy-not-elon-musk*
2/25/2022	Co-Author, "Senator Ben Ray Luján and FCC Commissioner Tout Bipartisan Broadband Victories for New Mexico to Reach 100 Percent Connectivity," The Paper	*https://abq.news/stories/senator-ben-ray-lujn-and-fcc-commissioner-tout-bipartisan-broadband-victories-for-new-mexico-to,8021*
5/24/2021	Author, "Ending Big Tech's Free Ride," Newsweek Opinion	*https://www.newsweek.com/ending-big-techs-free-ride-opinion-1593696*
4/8/2021	Author, "Barreling towards a broadband blunder," The Hill	*https://thehill.com/ blogs/congress-blog/technology/547073-barreling-towards-a-broadband-blunder/*
7/27/2020	Author, "A Conservative Path Forward on Big Tech," Newsweek Opinion	*https://www.newsweek.com/conservative-path-forward-big-tech-opinion-1520375*
4/4/2020	Author, "U.S. Internet Continues to Show Strength Through COVID–19 Stress Test Brendan Carr," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC/u-s-internet-continues-to-show-strength-through-covid-19-stress-test-d89851263876*
3/27/2020	Author, "U.S. Internet and Telecom Networks Showing Strength with COVID–19," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/beat-the-virus/americas-broadband-networks-showing-strength-with-covid-19-f2a403c9700f*
3/17/2020	Author, "Twitter Suppresses Speech by Calling It 'Manipulated Media'," Wall Street Journal Opinion	*https://www.wsj.com/articles/twitter-suppresses-speech-by-calling-it-manipulated-media-11584485145*
2/18/2020	Author, "Embracing the Innovation 5G will Bring About," Our World	*https://www.ourworld.co/embracing-the-innovation-5g-will-bring-about/*
4/10/2019	Author, "Facebook Forgets the First Amendment," National Review	*https://www.nationalreview.com/2019/04/facebook-advocates-government-regulation-online-speech/*
3/5/2019	Author, "Nationalizing 5G Is Not the Way to Beat China," National Review	*https://www.nationalreview.com/2019/03/nationalizing-5g-is-not-the-way-to-beat-china/*
2/5/2019	Author, "5G Jobs in the Year of 5G," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC/5g-jobs-in-the-year-of-5g-3c4ce0b14ace*
11/14/2018	Author, "How Jose's 5G approach blocks broadband," The Mercury News	*https://www.mercurynews.com/2018/11/14/opinion-how-san-joses-5g-approach-blocks-broadband/*
11/6/2018	Author, "Rebuilding After Michael," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC/rebuilding-after-michael-65b0eed44f26*
9/24/2018	Co-Author, "5G technology key to Pensacola's growth," Pensacola News Journal	*https://www.pnj.com/story/news/2018/09/24/5-g-technology-key-pensacolas-growth-guestview/1410527002/*
7/11/2018	Co-Author, "Telehealth pilot program will improve health outcomes, reduce costs," Clarion Ledger	*https://www.clarionledger.com/story/opinion/columnists/2018/07/11/telehealth-pilot-program-improve-health-outcomes-reduce-costs/774782002/*
5/29/2018	Co-Author, "Agriculture and connectivity," Norfolk Daily News	*https://norfolkdailynews.com/blogs/agriculture-and-connectivity/article_313f71d0-633c-11e8–91f1-f725de833061.html*
5/25/2018	Author, "From Farm to Cloud: How Broadband Makes Smart Ag Brilliant," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC/from-farm-to-cloud-how-broadband-makes-smart-ag-brilliant-ae41a08cc04f*

DATE	TITLE (Publication)	LINK
4/23/2018	Author, "From Connected Cows to a Bear that Deploys Broadband—How Connectivity Brings Opportunity to Rural Communities," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC/from-connected-cows-to-a-bear-that-deploys-broadband-how-connectivity-brings-opportunity-to-rural-2e7f7f29628f*
3/20/2018	Author, "New FCC rules could lead to more broadband for more people—Baltimore Sun," The Baltimore Sun	*https://www.baltimoresun.com/opinion/op-ed/bs-ed-op-0321-broadband-rules-20180320-story.html*
3/9/2018	Author, "Infrastructure Reform Means More Broadband for More Americans," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC/infrastructure-reform-means-more-broadband-for-more-americans-9c17d4b4b0bf*
2/23/2018	Author, "Expanding Connectivity and Opportunity in the Magnolia State," Medium Blog	*https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC/expanding-connectivity-and-opportunity-in-the-magnolia-state-aa1d87cffe?source=user_profile-7-*
2/18/2018	Co-Author, "Preparing for the jobs of tomorrow starts today," Clarion Ledger	*https://www.clarionledger.com/story/ opinion/columnists/2018/02/18/preparing-jobs-tomorrow-starts-today/341986002/*
11/30/2017	Author, "No, the FCC is not killing the Internet," The Washington Post	*https://www.washingtonpost.com/opinions/no-the-fcc-is-not-killing-the-internet/2017/11/30/9205ac88-d457-11e7-a986-d0a9770d9a3e_story.html?utm_term=.abf995a235e7*
6/3/2014	Co-Author, Developments in Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice 2013 (Communications), ABA Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice	*https://www.americanbar.org/products/ecd/ebk/132903934/*
1/23/2012	Co-Author, "Fifth Circuit Upholds FCC's Shot Clock/Tower Siting Ruling," Wiley Rein LLP	*https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=13fbe8db-ed50-41d5-8482-3aa6a7b27606*
7/1/2011	Co-Author, "FCC Provides Guidance on Net Neutrality Rules," Wiley Rein LLP	*https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=12b5f8-0eae-4835-827c-8a4ec62f5548*
12/27/2010	Co-Author, "Summary of FCC's Net Neutrality Order," Wiley Rein LLP	*https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g= 8bd7165e-407a-4aa0-b185-2a78fafd6d6f*
12/21/2010	Co-Author, "FCC Adopts Net Neutrality Rules," Wiley Rein LLP	*https://www.lexology.com/library/detail.aspx?g=7dfc28d1-239f-429e-99c5-19a3655ce549*
2006	Author, "How Federal Preemption Helps Tower Owners," Above Ground Level Magazine	Unable to locate link

Question 18

List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (*e.g.,* PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
6/8/2023	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/06/june-2023-open-commission-meeting*
6/6/2023	NAB Leadership Foundation Awards	Extemp Remarks/Award Presentation—Broadcast	*https://servicetoamericaawards.org/programbook/* (not featured in program, unable to locate link to event)

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
5/24/2023	Remarks at Safer Buildings Coalition Wireless Tech & Policy Summit	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Public Safety/Spectrum	*https://www.saferbuildings.org/index.php?option=com_jevents&task=icalrepeat.detail&evid=266&Itemid=131&year=2023&month=05&day=24&title=safer-buildings coalition-wireless-tech-a-policy-summit&uid=3d5e5eb9159c9d67c4c6bd01b3206a9a*
5/18/2023	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/05/may-2023-open-commission-meeting*
5/3/2023	Citizens Against Government Waste Policy Breakfast	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	Unable to locate link
4/28/2023	FCBA Annual Seminar	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.fcba.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/FINAL-May-2023-News.pdf*
4/20/2023	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/04/april-2023-open-commission-meeting*
4/17/2023	NTCA Legislative + Policy Conference	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.ntca.org/ruraliscool/newsroom/news/now-our-time-recapping-ntca-2023-legislative-policy-conference*
3/28/2023	Free State Foundation Annual Seminar	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hXmZ0Toj-Zg&t=9s*
3/28/2023	CTA, Conversation with a Commissioner Series	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.cta.tech/events* (Conversation with a Commissioner Videos included)
3/24/2023	Lincoln Network Policy Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	Unable to locate link
3/16/2023	TIA Board of Directors	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
3/16/2023	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events /events/2023/03/march-2023-open-commission-meeting*
3/8/2023	Committee for Economic Development (CED) Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Network Security	Unable to locate link.
3/7/2023	The INCOMPAS 2023 Policy Summit	Q&A Discussion— FCC's digital divide efforts	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oZkRW9Aw3KY*
3/1/2023	ACA Connects Annual Summit	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://acaconnects.org/webinars/summit-2023/*
3/1/2023	American Foreign Policy Council Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—TikTok	Unable to locate link
2/16/2023	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2023/02/february-2023-open-commission-meeting*
2/8/2023	Digital Dialogue Forum Roundtable	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.digitaldialogueforum.com/past-events/*
2/7/2023	Commercial Spaceflight Federation Board Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
1/26/2023	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2023/01/january-2023-open-commission-meeting*
12/21/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/12/december-2022-open-commission-meeting*
12/15/2022	FCBA/PLI Conference, 40th Annual Institute on Telecommunications Policy & Regulation	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.pli.edu/programs/telecommunications-policy—regulation?t=ondemand*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
11/17/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/11/november-2022-open-commission-meeting*
11/14/2022	R Street Spectrum Fireside, Building the Pipeline: Auction Authority and Spectrum Allocation in the United States	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.rstreet.org/events/building-the-pipeline-auction-authority-and-spectrum-allocation-in-the-us/*
11/10/2022	5G Americas Technology Summit	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
10/27/2022	Cooley Townhall	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://cooley.zoom.us/rec/share/rrNQnDMMMVPJBrpiMQ_g3nEMMoaHhXVhZjwJA7a8CLMmSNk387NPExEVtfOHuUaX.LI-ALnWcek0ux9tX?startTime=1666893619000*
10/27/2022	Heritage Foundation/ Kevin Roberts Show	Interview—Big Tech	*https://www.heritage.org/technology/commentary/fcc-commissioner-americas-fight-against-big-tech*
10/27/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/10/october-2022-open-commission-meeting*
10/25/2022	Columbia Science and Technology Law Review Interview (podcast release November 2022)	Interview—TikTok/ Data Security	*https://open.spotify.com/episode/3bfBsl8TLAGK0Pev4XpKbi*
10/19/2022	Stanford Law Debate	Debate—Section 230/Content Moderation	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cVaDK6Iuw1c*
10/17/2022	Digital Progress Institute Fireside	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	Unable to locate link
10/12/2022	WIA Infrastructure Developers Forum	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
9/29/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/09/september-2022-open-commission-meeting*
9/26/2022	Transatlantic Policy Network Summit	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—International Communications Policy	*https://www.tpnonline.org/tpn-events-4th-quarter-2022/*
9/22/2022	Cowen TMT Virtual Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
9/19/2022	WISPAPALOOZA 2022 (pre-record)	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://wispa.swoogo.com/WISPAPALOOZA22/session/1072990/keynote-fireside-chat-with-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr*
8/9/2022	Alaska Broadband Summit	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
8/5/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/08/august-2022-open-commission-meeting*
7/21/2022	AEI Fireside Chat	Extemp remarks focused on BEAD	*https://www.aei.org/technology-and-innovation/can-billions-of-dollars-in-federal-grants-solve-broadband-access-and-availability-throughout-the-us-highlights-from-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-and-an-expert-panel-discussion/*
7/20/2022	MMTC 2022 FCC Former Chairs' Symposium	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPTNCSbRgLM*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
7/14/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/07/july-2022-open-commission-meeting*
7/7/2022	National Tribal Telecommunications Association Webinar	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
6/28/2022	Rural Wireless Infrastructure Summit	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://rinawireless.com/conference/* (unable to locate link to video recording)
6/20/2022	Hudson Institute Event, Beyond the Billions: Policies that Can Deliver on Congress's Broadband Goals	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.hudson.org/events/2124-virtual-event-beyond-the-billions-policies-that-can-deliver-on-congress-s-broadband-goals62022*
6/8/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2022/06/june-2022-open-commission-meeting*
6/1/2022	South Dakota Broadband Roundtable	Discussion—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
5/26/2022	MMTC/OCA Moving Underserved Communities Forward Event Series, 5G and Future Technological Innovations (pre-record)	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.facebook.com/ocanational/videos/381910437321613*
5/25/2022	FCC Broadband Labels Hearing	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=u08jXKUaphQ&feature=youtu.be*
5/24/2022	FCC 988 Geolocation Forum	Extemp Remarks—Public Safety	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/05/forum-geolocation-988*
5/19/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2022/05/may-2022-open-commission-meeting*
5/16/2022	National Telehealth Conference, Improving Access to Telehealth and Broadband Services	Panel—Telehealth	*https://nationaltelehealthconference.vfairs.com/*
5/16/2022	APCO Event	Extemp Remarks—Public Safety	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-383360A1.pdf*
5/11/2022	CTIA Board of Director's Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
5/6/2022	Free State Foundation Policy Conference	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?520028-1/free-state-foundation-policy-conference-panel-1*
4/26/2022	VON3 Spring Conference	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.von3.xyz/schedule* (unable to locate link to recording, if available)
4/21/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/04/april-2022-open-commission-meeting*
4/19/2022	FCBA Diversity Pipeline Program and TMT Policy Certificate Program	Extemp Remarks—General Communications Issues	Unable to locate link
4/12/2022	Howard Law Event	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—General Communications Issues	Unable to locate link
3/16/2022	19th Annual NG911 Institute Honor Awards	Extemp Remarks—Public Safety	Unable to locate link
3/16/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/03/march-2022-open-commission-meeting*
3/7/2022	Rep. Bergman Rural Connectivity Advisory Committee Meeting	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
3/7/2022	INCOMPAS Policy Summit	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoK6IX_ViFI*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
3/3/2022	NATE Unite 2022	Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jiNt0NyvI7s*
3/3/2022	CTA Spectrum Event	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://twitter.com/CTATech/status/1501291074320580614* (unable to locate recording)
2/18/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/02/february-2022-open-commission-meeting*
2/8/2022	INCOMPAS Policy Summit	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NoK6IX_ViFI*
2/4/2022	APTS 2022 Public Media Summit (pre-record) (played and public March 2022)	Extemp Remarks—Broadcast	*https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1594047744307713&wtsid=rdr_067zxarKtpjh39NOO*
1/27/2022	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2022/01/january-2022-open-commission-meeting*
12/14/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/12/december-2021-open-commission-meeting*
12/8/2021	FCBA/PLI Conference, 39th Annual Institute on Telecommunications Policy & Regulation	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.fcba.org/events/39th-annual-institute-telecommunications-policy-regulation/*
12/6/2021	FCC Virtual Roundtable—COVID–19/Telehealth	Extemp Remarks/ Moderator—Telehealth	*https://www.fcc.gov/ news-events/ events/ 2021/12/commissioner-carrs-telehealth-roundtable*
12/4/2021	Western Caucus Rural Broadband Forum (pre-record)	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
11/18/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/11/november-2021-open-commission-meeting*
11/16/2021	NTCA Telecom Executive Forum	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://app.qwoted.com/opportunities/event-ntca-2021-telecom-executive-forum-2021*
11/12/2021	Federalist Society National Lawyers Convention	Panel/Q&A—USF Reform	*https://fedsoc.org/conferences/2021-national-lawyers-convention#agenda-item-federalism-and-broadband-spending-finding-the-right-approach*
11/10/2021	NARUC Annual Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.naruc.org/meetings-and-events/naruc-annual-meetings/2021-annual-meeting/*
11/10/2021	NATE Luncheon	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
11/5/2021	AT&T Board of Directors Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
11/5/2021	Americans for Tax Reform Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
10/28/2021	Millicom/ TIGO Global Webit Series Panel	Panel—International Communications Policy	Unable to locate link
10/26/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/10/october-2021-open-commission-meeting*
10/21/2021	USTelecom Fall Leadership Committee Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
10/20/2021	American Consumer Institute Podcast	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Telehealth/ Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.the americanconsumer.org/2021/10/the-current-state-of-telehealth-from-the-fccs-perspective-with-commissioner-brandon-carr/*
10/19/2021	China Tech Threat Panel, Unacceptable Risk: Expanding the FCC's Covered List to Reflect Reality	Panel—International Communications Policy	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-6v2wmPCugk*
10/15/2021	Free State Foundation Anniversary Luncheon	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?515360-1/fcc-commissioners-speak-free-state-foundation-lunch*
10/14/2021	Digital Dialogue Forum Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.digitaldialogueforum.com/past-events/*
10/5/2021	WIA Connectivity Expo	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://wia.org/connect-x-2021-highlights/* (unable to locate recording)
10/4/2021	Western Telecommunications Alliance Forum	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—USF Reform	Unable to locate link
9/30/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/09/september-2021-open-commission-meeting*
9/22/2021	ACT—AppCon 2021	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
9/21/2021	Rural Rise Leadership Summit	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.ruralrise.org/previous-summits/ruralrise-summit-2021/virtual-summit-2021-schedule/*
9/15/2021	AEI Fireside Chat	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.aei.org/events/fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-a-progress-report-on-us-leadership-in-next-generation-networks/*
8/26/2021	ATSC Conference	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadcast	*https://www.atsc.org/news/mark-your-calendar-atsc-next-generation-broadcast-conference-returns-in-august-with-in-person-event-in-nations-capital/*
8/17/2021	TPI Aspen Panel	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Y_tKfudyvdk&list=PLIbQnBe9lRS_Xx9WMrh9XjPomnOZDTJo2*
8/5/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/08/august-2021-open-commission-meeting*
7/14/2021	Center for Technology and Innovation James Madison Institute Remarks	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
7/13/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/07/july-2021-open-commission-meeting*
7/8/2021	Federalist Society Freedom of Thought Series	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Section 230/Big Tech/1A	*https://fedsoc.org/events/questions-of-federal-preemption*
7/8/2021	Fed Soc Event on Content Moderation	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Section 230/Big Tech/1A	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?513241-1/regulating-social-media-content-moderation*
7/7/2021	Center for the Study of the Presidency and Congress Fireside Chat	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.thepresidency.org/events/the-5g-rollout-and-lessons-for-6g*
6/24/2021	WTA Big Tech/USF Webinar	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—USF Reform	*https://w-t-a.org/members-only/wta-webinars/* (webinars appear to be member-only access)

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
6/17/2021	Telecommunications Policy Research Center Webinar	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*http://www.tprcweb.com/webinars* (unable to locate recording)
6/17/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/06/june-2021-open-commission-meeting*
5/25/2021	Heritage Foundation Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Section 230	*https://www.heritage.org/technology/event/virtual-fighting-censorship-big-tech-section-230-and-beyond*
5/20/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2021/05/may-2021-open-commission-meeting*
5/18/2021	WIA's Connect (X): All Access Workforce & Supplier Diversity Summit	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://workforceandsupplierdiversity.connectivityexpo.com/* (recordings do not appear to be available)
5/17/2021	5G Americas Podcast	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vxv7e0_ZFgY&t=2s*
5/14/2021	FCBA Fireside Chat	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	Unable to locate link
5/13/2021	Internet Innovation Alliance Fireside Chat	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://internetinnovation.org/events/webinar-building-america-on-broadband-a-chat-with-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr/*
5/13/2021	National Association of Broadcasters—State Leadership Conference	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadcast	*https://slc.nab.org/* (unable to locate recordings from 2021)
4/27/2021	Open RAN Policy Coalition Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Open RAN	*https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3959284611218344715?fbclid=IwAR0RPOXyeup4ZXDYv94M7uF3ASKkte_YqkwzrKE6cd0-v7vgBpWbeceillE*
4/22/2021	CUA Dean's Dinner Keynote	Extemp Remarks	*https://www.law.edu/news-and-events/ 2021/alumni/2021-0423-deans-benefit-for-student-scholarship.html*
4/22/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2021/04/april-2021-open-commission-meeting*
4/20/2021	Western Fire Chiefs Webinar	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Public Safety	Unable to locate link
4/15/2021	USTelecom Board of Directors Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
4/13/2021	FCBA Virtual Membership Event, The Converging Communications and Technology Sectors: An FCBA All-Chapter Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.fcba.org/events/converging-communications-technology-sectors-fcba-chapter-event/*
4/8/2021	Cowen TMT Washington Day	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.cowen.com/conferences-and-events/?event-year=2021* (unable to locate recording of event)
4/6/2021	Citizens Against Government Waste FB Live	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=279920027031270*
3/30/2021	CCA Virtual Keynote	Extemp Remarks	Unable to locate link.
3/30/2021	CSIS Virtual Panel	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—International Communications Policy	*https://www.csis.org/events/securing-americas-networks-against-chinese-security-threats*
3/30/2021	New Civil Liberties Alliance's Lunch & Law Program	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://nclalegal.org/2021/03/can-the-constitution-save-us-from-big-tech-censorship/*
3/25/2021	NATE/TESSO Virtual Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link.

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
3/23/2021	Free State Foundation Virtual Event	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c79vnVQS4Oc&t=1s*
3/18/2021	CUA LAW Communications State of the Institute	Extemp Remarks	Unable to locate link
3/17/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/03/march-2021-open-commission-meeting*
3/15/2021	Speech: "Carr AEI Keynote: Extending America's 5G Leadership"	Prepared, written remarks (link provided)	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370781A1.pdf*
3/9/2021	National Rural Health Association Remarks	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Telehealth	Unable to locate link
2/17/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/02/february-2021-open-commission-meeting*
2/9/2021	INCOMPAS Policy Summit	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=94fgSl_K_p0*
2/2/2021	Signal Group Webinar—U.S. China Competition: What's Next with Huawei and Beyond	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—International Communications Policy	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VXek nphL_Ns*
1/28/2021	ABA Conference—Section 230: Everything You Love and Hate About The Internet	Q&A/Panel—Section 230	Unable to locate link
1/19/2021	Raymond James TMT Discussion	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—General Communications Issues	Unable to locate link
1/14/2021	AEI Panel Discussion: Importance of Spectrum Sharing	Panel—Spectrum Policy	*https://www.aei.org/events/spectrum-sharing-and-maximizing-future-tech-a-conversation-with-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr/*
1/13/2021	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2021/01/january-2021-open-commission-meeting*
12/10/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/12/december-2020-open-commission-meeting*
12/9/2020	Keynote Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At The India Mobile Congress 2020 (Virtual), Broadcast Internet In India—How ATSC 3.0 Supports 5G Services	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-368664A1.pdf*
11/18/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/11/november-2020-open-commission-meeting*
10/27/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/10/october-2020-open-commission-meeting*
10/7/2020	Thrive North America featuring the CTIA 5G Summit	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://youtube/AfSpiiMavoo*
9/30/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/09/september-2020-open-commission-meeting*
9/28/2020	ATSC Conference	Extemp Remarks—Broadcast	*https://nabshow.com/ny2020/sessions/keynote-address-from-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr/*
9/24/2020	FCBA Ask the Experts—Section 230	Q&A Discussion—Section 230 reform	*https://www.fcba.org/events/young-lawyers-committee-panel-discussion/*
9/16/2020	Reboot Conversations: The Right's Tech Realignment with FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, Foundation for American Innovation	Q&A Discussion—Section 230 reform	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OkWpDBXGwO 4*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
8/6/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/08/august-2020-open-commission-meeting*
7/16/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/ news-events/events/2020/07/july-2020-open-commission-meeting*
7/3/2020	The Realignment: Ep. 41 Season Finale: FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, Big Tech, China, and the Future of the Right	Extemp Remarks regarding holding big tech accountable, Section 230, and China	*https://the-realignment.simplecast.com/episodes/ep-41-season-finale-cc-commissioner-brendan-carr-big-tech-china-and-the-future-of-the-right*
6/9/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/06/june-2020-open-commission-meeting*
5/19/2020	Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At The Wireless Infrastructure Association's Connect(X): All Access Conference, Enabling The 5G Upgrade	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364461A1.pdf*
5/18/2020	At The National Association Of Broadcasters And Communications Technology Association Online Event On ATSC 3.0, Broadcast Internet: The Future Of ATSC 3.0, The Internet	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364414A1.pdf*
5/13/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/05/may-2020-open-commission-meeting*
5/5/2020	Allfasteners/AF Tower Meeting	Extemp Remarks—5G and Related Issues	*https://allfasteners.com/news/post/af-to-host-industry-news-conference-with-fcc-commissioner-nate-ceo*
4/23/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/04/april-2020-open-commission-meeting*
3/31/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/03/march-2020-open-commission-meeting*
3/1/2020	CPAC Conference 2020	Q&A—5G and related issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sYI0jhysRDM*
2/28/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2020/02/february-2020-open-commission-meeting*
1/30/2020	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2020/01/january-2020-open-commission-meeting*
12/12/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/12/december-2019-open-commission-meeting*
12/10/2019	Keynote Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At The International Institute Of Communications 2019 Telecommunications And Media Forum, Building A 5G World, Washington, D.C	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-361292A1.pdf*
12/3/2019	Commissioner Carr Remarks on Receiving Public Service Award: Keeping Pace with Dynamic Industries	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-361147A1.pdf*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
11/26/2019	Ensuring the Security of 5G Networks	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-361030A1.pdf*
11/22/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/11/november-2019-open-commission-meeting*
10/25/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/10/october-2019-open-commission-meeting*
10/22/2019	Keynote Address Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At Mobile World Congress-Los Angeles, "The Year Of 5G And Beyond", Los Angeles, California, October 22, 2019	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-360365A1.pdf*
10/17/2019	AnchorNets 2019—SHLB Conference	Extemp Remarks—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.shlb.org/events/past-events*
10/1/2019	Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr at the WIA Foundation Awards, "Honoring 5g Builders", Washington, D.C., October 1, 2019	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-360020A1.pdf*
9/26/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/09/september-2019-open-commission-meeting*
9/18/2019	Competitive Carriers Association CCA Annual Convention	Keynote remarks	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PvyYggdxnxo*
8/1/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/08/august-2019-open-commission-meeting*
7/10/2019	Verizon/Ellevate Network Women in Tech and Telecom	Extemp Remarks—Diversity	Unable to find link.
7/10/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2019/07/july-2019-open-commission-meeting*
6/19/2019	Remarks of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr at the Virginia Telehealth Network's Event on the FCC's "Connected Care Pilot Program" in Laurel Fork, Virginia on June 19, 2019	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-358056A1.pdf*
6/6/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2019/06/june-2019-open-commission-meeting*
5/16/2019	Remarks of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr at the Wireless Foundation Honors, "The Path Up With 5G"	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-357497A1.pdf*
5/9/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/ news-events/events/2019/05/may-2019-open-commission-meeting*
4/18/2019	Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At The National Association Of Broadcasters Show, "ATSC 3.0: A New Broadband Pipe", Las Vegas, Nevada	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-356909A1.pdf*
4/12/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/ news-events/ events/2019/04/april-2019-open-commission-meeting*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
4/3/2019	URAC Telemed Leadership Forum	Extemp Remarks—Telehealth	*https://www.globenewswire.com/news-release/2018/12/18/1668764/0/en/FCC-Commissioner-Brendan-Carr-to-Deliver-Keynote-at-Telemed-Leadership- Forum-2019-in-Washington-DC.html*
3/26/2019	Free State Foundation Telecom Policy Conference	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://spn.org/event/fsf-eleventh-telecom-policy-conference/*
3/20/2019	Keynote Remarks of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr at the WISPAmerica Convention, "Grain Elevators, Water Towers, and other Ways to Connect Americans", Cincinnati, OH	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-356655A1.pdf*
3/15/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events /events/2019/03/march-2019-open-commission-meeting*
2/25/2019	Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, "A Modern Regulatory Approach To 5G" At The Transatlantic Policy Dialogue, MWC-Barcelona	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-356317A1.pdf*
2/14/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/02/february-2019-open-commission-meeting*
2/13/2019	NG911 Institute	Speaker—911 regulation	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OhbJYW0EQJk*
2/5/2019	Carr Gives Keynote Address at Tower Builders Conference Lauds Progress on Wireless Infrastructure, Growth in 5G Jobs	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-356077A1.pdf*
1/30/2019	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2019/01/january-2019-open-commission-meeting*
12/12/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/12/december-2018-open-commission-meeting*
11/15/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/ news-events/ events/ 2018/11/november-2018-open-commission-meeting*
10/23/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/10/october-2018-open-commission-meeting*
10/2/2018	Keynote Remarks of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At the CCA Annual Convention, "Building America's Next Generation of Wireless Infrastructure"	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-354660A1.pdf*
9/27/2018	White House 5G Summit—Breakout Session	Discussion—Infrastructure	Unable to find link.
9/26/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/09/september-2018-open-commission-meeting*
9/18/2018	Citizens Against Government Waste, Conversation with Commissioner Carr	Extemp discussion	*https://www.facebook.com/watch/live/?ref=watch_permalink&v=255529295167976*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
9/13/2018	Keynote Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At Mobile World Congress Americas, "Local Leadership And The Race To 5G"	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-354086A1.pdf*
9/4/2018	Remarks of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At Indiana's Statehouse, "Grassroots Leadership on 5G," in Indianapolis, IN	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-353925A1.pdf*
8/2/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/08/august-2018-open-commission-meeting*
7/31/2018	Hudson Institute Event—Innovating in Telemedicine	Extemp discussion on FCC's telehealth initiatives	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZMquwo-GC3U*
7/19/2018	MMTC Access to Capital and Telecom Policy Conference	Extemp Remarks/ Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*http://files.constantcontact.com/eb2d1f30101/07624684-d26d-4d09-8fdb-aeffdd613a54.pdf*
7/17/2018	Commissioner Carr Remarks at UMMC "Connected Care Pilot Program" Event, Jackson, MS (As Prepared For Delivery)	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-352655A1.pdf*
7/12/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2018/07/july-2018-open-commission-meeting*
6/26/2018	Brookings Fireside Chat on 5G	Extemp remarks on the future of 5G	*https://www.brookings.edu/events/the-future-of-5g-a-fireside-chat-with-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr/*
6/20/2018	Remarks of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr at the Senate Broadband Caucus, Connecting America Event "Agriculture and Broadband for Strong Rural Communities"	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-351817A1.pdf*
6/14/2018	Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At The Above Ground Level Summit, Philadelphia, PA	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-351626A1.pdf*
6/7/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/06/june-2018-open-commission-meeting*
5/10/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2018/05/may-2018-open-commission-meeting*
5/4/2018	FCBA Annual Seminar	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://www.fcba.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/04/FINAL-April-2018-Newsletter.pdf*
4/20/2018	Remarks of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr at CTIA's Race to 5G Summit, "Next Steps on the Path to 5G"	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-350348A1.pdf*
4/17/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/04/april-2018-open-commission-meeting*
4/10/2018	Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At The 2018 National Association Of Broadcasters Show, Las Vegas, NV	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-350162A1.pdf*
4/4/2018	University of Maryland—Wireless Connect 2018	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	*https://tsan.umd.edu/2018/03/ wireless-connect-2018-in-partnership.html*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
3/27/2018	Free State Foundation Annual Telecommunications Policy Conference,	Panel discussion, including on net neutrality	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?443160-101/free-state-foundation-annual-telecommunications-policy-conference-afternoon-session*
3/22/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/ events/2018/03/march-2018-open-commission-meeting*
3/7/2018	ITTA Membership Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link.
3/5/2018	WIA Conference	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link.
2/28/2018	Remarks of Commissioner Brendan Carr, Ensuring the United States is 5G Ready, Washington, D.C	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-349499A1.pdf*
2/23/2018	CPAC Conference Panel	Extemp remarks on panel, including on net neutrality and FCC reforms	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?441473-17/cpac-panel-fcc-chair-ajit-pai*
2/22/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/02/february-2018-open-commission-meeting*
2/19/2018	Commissioner Carr Remarks at Jackson State University Roundtable on Workforce Development And Training In The Telecommunications And Technology Sectors, Jackson, MS	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-349298A1.pdf*
2/18/2018	CTA 5G Day: FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr	Speech	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BqKLrXTj84I*
2/11/2018	Silicon Flatirons Tech Policy Conference	Q&A—technology	*https://www.wbklaw.com/news/managing-partner-bryan-tramont-moderates-a-fireside-chat-with-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr/*
2/6/2018	MMTC's 9th Annual Broadband And Social Justice Summit	Interview/ Q&A—General Communications Issues	*https://www.mmtconline.org/fcc-commissioners-breakfast-2019-bbsj-summit/*
1/31/2018	Commissioner Carr Remarks on "The U.S. View on 5G" at ETNO–MLex Regulatory Summit in Brussels, Belgium	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-348968A1.pdf*
1/30/2018	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2018/01/january-2018-open-commission-meeting*
1/25/2018	Commissioner Carr Remarks at U.S. Chamber of Commerce Telecommunications and E-Commerce Committee, Washington, D.C	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-348866A1.pdf*
12/14/2017	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/ Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2017/12/december-2017-open-commission-meeting*
12/12/2017	American Consumer Institute	Future of Net Neutrality Remarks	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?438475-1/future-net-neutrality*
12/5/2017	IIC Telecommunications and Media Forum	Extemp remarks—Connectivity	*https://www.wiley.law/printpilot-press release-Wiley-Reins-David-A-Gross-Moderates-IICs-Annual-Telecom-Media-Forum.pdf?79992*
11/28/2017	Commissioner Carr Remarks at DOL Workshop on Apprenticeships and Wireless Workforce Development, Washington, DC	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-347967A1.pdf*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
11/28/2017	Remarks of Commissioner Brendan Carr at "The Future of Internet Freedom" Symposium, Washington, D.C	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/ attachments/DOC-347986A1.pdf*
11/16/2017	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2017/11/november-2017-open-commission-meeting*
10/26/2017	Remarks Of FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr At CCA's 25th Annual Convention, Fort Worth, Texas	Speech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-347433A1.pdf*
10/24/2017	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2017/10/october-2017-open-commission-meeting*
10/20/2017	USTelecom Board of Directors Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Q&A—Broadband and Related Issues	Unable to locate link
9/26/2017	Open Commission Meeting	Extemp Remarks/Potential Press Questions	*https://www.fcc.gov/news-events/events/2017/09/september-2017-open-commission-meeting*
2/26/2017	Panel Discussion, Modernizing Europe's Digital Rules, European Internet Forum and GSMA Mobile World Congress 2017, Barcelona, Spain		*https://www.internetforum.eu/events/events/547-high-level-roundtable-discussion-modernizing-europe%E2%80%99s-digital-rules.html* (not listed as a panelist, but participation confirmed)
10/24/2016	Panel Discussion, Meet the 8th Floor International Legal Advisors, Federal Communications Bar Association, Washington, D.C.	Ex temp remarks focused on priorities for Commissioner Pai's office	*https://www.fcba.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/10/FINAL-October-2016-Newsletter.pdf* (not listed in the newsletter, oddly, so we may need to confirm date)
9/21/2016	Panel Discussion, Hot Policy Topics, Competitive Carrier Association 2016 Annual Convention, Seattle, Washington	Ex temp remarks focused on hot topics for FCC offices in telecom policy	*https://www.facebook.com/CCAmobile/posts/bringing-together-more-carriers-than-any-other-industry-event-cca2016-is-the-ind/1231542596870632/* (link to agenda and speakers is no longer available)
9/7/2016	Panel Discussion, Emerging Issues in Wireless: The FCC and NTIA Perspective, CTIA Super Mobility 2016, Las Vegas, Nevada	Ex temp remarks focused on spectrum availability, accessible communications, speeding the deployment of small cells to advance broadband deployment, and public safety issues	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6xDCiCi_NZE*
10/14/2015	Remarks at New Direction's Digital Single Market Summit, Brussels, Belgium	Written remarks focused on maintaining light-touch regulatory approach to regulating internet	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/brendan-carr-remarks-new-directions-digital-single-market-summit*
9/9/2015	Panel Discussion, Washington Goes Mobile, FCC & NTIA Perspective on the Issues, CTIA Super Mobility 2015, Las Vegas, Nevada	Ex temp remarks on spectrum, competition, and closing the digital divide	*https://www.ctiasuper mobility 2015.com/policy-spectrum/*
9/9/2014	Panel Discussion, The Regulatory Landscape: Updates and Hot Issues in Washington, Competitive Carrier Association 2014 Annual Convention, Las Vegas, Nevada	Ex temp remarks on FCC's incentive auction, spectrum sharing, text-to-911, NG911, and other hot topics of 2014 telecom policy.	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OuNUuOMSN-8*
5/20/2014	Panel Discussion, A View from Washington, PCIA's 2014 Wireless Infrastructure Show, Orlando, Florida	Ex temp remarks focused on wireless issues before the FCC and Congress	*https://www.youtube.com/hashtag/2014wishow* (unable to locate video of this panel)
3/20/2014	Panel Discussion, Meet the Wireless Advisors, Federal Communications Bar Association, Washington, D.C.	Ex temp remarks focused on priorities for Commissioner Pai's office	*https://www.fcba.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/FINAL-March-2014-Newsletter1.pdf*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
2008	Speaker, "Regulatory Year In Review," 37th Annual ACUTA Conference, Las Vegas (Summer 2008)		*http://www.acuta.org/events/annual_conference/sce08.cfm* (unable to access old material from ACUTA)
2007	Presenter, "E-Discovery: What Your Lawyer Wants From You," Voice Report Podcast (Spring 2007)		Unable to locate link; exact date unknown
2007	Speaker, "Regulatory Update From Washington," 36th Annual ACUTA Conference, Miami (Summer 2007)		*http://www.acuta.org/events/annual_conference/sce07.cfm* (unable to access old material from ACUTA)
2007	Speaker, "2006 Legislative & Regulatory Wrap-up," ACUTA Seminar, Washington (Winter 2007)		Unable to locate link; unable to access old material from ACUTA

Question 19

List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available

DATE	TITLE	LINK
6/1/2023	Ernst joins FCC Commissioner Carr in Willey visit, Carol Times Herald	*https://www.carrollspaper.com/news/ernst-joins-fcc-commissioner-carr-in-willey-visit/article_a9764da4-00ad-11ee-bfb3-37b9b1d12bd4.html*
5/31/2023	Analysis | How the FCC may be forced to grapple with AI, too, The Washington Post	*https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2023/05/31/how-fcc-may-be-forced-grapple-with-ai-too/*
5/26/2023	Senator Joni Ernst And FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr Were In Willey Friday	*https://www.1380kcim.com/2023/05/26/senator-joni-ernst-and-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-were-in-willey-friday/*
5/26/2023	Senator Joni Ernst And FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr Were In Willey Friday	*https://www.1380kcim.com/2023/05/26/senator-joni-ernst-and-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-were-in-willey-friday/*
5/25/2023	Carr Visits South Dakota and Iowa	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-393735A1.pdf*
5/23/2023	US telecom regulator throws his weight behind EU senders-pay initiative, Euractiv	*https://www.euractiv.com/section/digital/news/us-telecom-regulator-throws-his-weight-behind-eu-senders-pay-initiative/*
5/22/2023	Carr Statement on FCC Nominations	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-393594A1.pdf*
5/12/2023	Standard General Merger, Roland Martin Unfiltered	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HWE6IPSaIV8*
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6/10/2022	Carr Calls for National Broadband Strategy	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-384164A1.pdf*
6/1/2022	Officials look to boost rural public safety communications	*https://trib.com/news/local/casper/officials-look-to-boost-rural-public-safety-communications/article_1c5c7a2e-e132-11ec-8d02-c73bb889441e.html*
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5/31/2022	Carr Visits Wyoming and South Dakota	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-383815A1.pdf*
5/31/2022	FCC Commissioner, Barrasso celebrate dedicated first-responder network, first used by Casper PD, Oil City News	*https://oilcity.news/community/2022/05/31/fcc-commissioner-barrasso-celebrate-dedicated-first-responder-network-first-used-by-casper-pd/*
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5/13/2022	Coleman Nation Podcast, Episode 67 Brendan Carr	*https://rumble.com/v15sid5-colemannation-podcast-episode-67-brendan-carr-off-the-spectrum.html?mref=1kztv&mrefc=5*
5/11/2022	New push to make Big Tech pay more for bandwidth, Axios	*https://www.axios.com/2022/05/11/big-tech-pay-for-bandwidth-eu-south-korea*
5/10/2022	Carr Statement: FCC Eases Budget Restrictions for Rural Rate-of-Return Carriers	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-eases-budget-restrictions-rural-rate-return-carriers-0*
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5/9/2022	Biden's 'disinformation board' should be shut down: FCC Commissioner	*https://www.fox business.com/video/6305828012112*
5/5/2022	Carr Recognizes Veteran and Tower Climber Amber Perez with 5G Award	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/ DOC-383042A1.pdf*
4/28/2022	FCC commissioner shoots down 'absurd' claim that the Federal government can block Musk's Twitter purchase	*https://www.foxbusiness.com/politics/fcc-commissioner-shoots-down-absurd-claim-that-the-federal-government-can-block-musks-twitter-purchase?test=9da8f89dacde974c9cba2df3b51cb742*

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4/21/2022	Carr Statement: FCC Launches Proceeding on Promoting Receiver Performance	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-22-29A3.pdf*
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3/21/2022	Carr Statement: FCC Adopts Auction 108 (2.5 GHz) Procedures, Deadlines, and Inventory	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-22-24A2.pdf*
3/18/2022	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Resolving Disputes Over Pole Replacement Costs	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-22-20A3.pdf*
3/17/2022	Carr Statement: FCC Announces Final Group of Connected Care Pilot Program Projects	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-22-23A3.pdf*
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1/28/2022	Carr Statement: FCC Connecting Tribal Libraries Through the E-Rate Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-22-8A3.pdf*
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1/22/2022	5G and FAA, Larry Kudlow Show, WABC	*https://wabcradio.com/episode/brendan-carr-1-22-22/*
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1/14/2022	Carr Concerned by Biden Broadband Rules	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-379259A1.pdf*
1/12/2022	Carr Holds Official Meeting with Taiwan Regulators	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-379158A1.pdf*
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12/28/2021	Carr Welcomes FCC's Mid-Band Spectrum Win	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-378880A1.pdf*
12/16/2021	Carr Welcomes Treasury Department Sanctions on DJI	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-378717A1.pdf*
12/15/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Initiates Proceeding on Future of Universal Service	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-initiates-proceeding-future-universal-service*
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12/2/2021	Carr Announces Agenda and Panelists for Telehealth Roundtable	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-378405A1.pdf*
11/23/2021	Carr Statement on IG's Report on Waste, Fraud, and Abuse	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-378120A1.pdf*
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11/12/2021	Carr Applauds President Biden's Signing of the Secure Equipment Act	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-377811A1.pdf*
11/5/2021	Carr Backs Bill Supporting Uncensored Internet Abroad	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-377601A1.pdf*
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9/30/2021	The Growing Threat to Liberty The Growing Threat to Liberty Posed by Big TechPosed by Big Tech, Dana Loesch, The First	*https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=113460339040 2620*
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7/28/2021	Carr Applauds Big Tech Accountability Legislative Package	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-374488A1.pdf*
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7/6/2021	FCC Commissioner, Ziply CEO tour Galena Mine, Soshone News Press	*https://shoshonenews press.com/news/2021/jul/06/fcc-commissioner-ziply-ceo-tour-galena-mine/*
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6/28/2021	Carr Applauds House Republican Framework to Reign in Big Tech	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-373627A1.pdf*
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6/17/2021	Carr Statement: Equipment Authorization and Competitive Bidding Supply Chain NPRM	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-73A3.pdf*
6/17/2021	Carr Applauds Round 2, Next Steps in Connected Care Pilot	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-373371A1.pdf*
6/15/2021	Carr Applauds Scalise, Eshoo Bill on Huawei Loophole	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-373281A1.pdf*
6/15/2021	Why Chinese 5G and Missile Silos Don't Mix (feat. Commissioner Brendan Carr), American Moment	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MwjdNUvF8xU*
6/10/2021	Carr Applauds Wicker Anti-Discrimination Bill	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-373167A1.pdf*
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5/26/2021	Carr Welcomes Vote on Proposal to Close Huawei Loophole	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-372778A1.pdf*
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5/11/2021	Carr Statement: FCC to Launch $7.17 Billion Connectivity Fund Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-58A3.pdf*
5/11/2021	FCC's Carr to Newsmax TV: AG Mosby's Complaint Against Conservative TV Station 'Chilling,' John Bachman Now, Newsmax	*https://www.newsmax.com/newsmax-tv/carr-fcc-mosby/2021/05/11/id/1020991/*
5/10/2021	Commissioner Carr Statement on Maryland State's Attorney's Complaint	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-372303A1.pdf*
5/10/2021	FCC Commissioner: Mosby's complaint is 'blatantly unconstitutional'	*https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/fcc-commissioner-mosbys-complaint-is-blatantly-unconstitutional*
5/10/2021	FCC Commissioner: Mosby's complaint is 'blatantly unconstitutional', Fox Baltimore	*https://foxbaltimore.com/news/local/fcc-commissioner-mosbys-complaint-is-blatantly-unconstitutional*
5/6/2021	Brendan Carr to Newsmax TV: Hispanic Caucus Wants Govt to Be DNC 'Speech Police,' Spicer & Co., Newsmax	*https://www.newsmax.com/newsmax-tv/fcc-miami-hispanic-caucus/2021/05/06/id/1020436/*
5/5/2021	Carr Visits Nebraska with Senator Fischer and Governor Ricketts	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-372186A1.pdf*
5/4/2021	Gov. Noem, FCC commissioner tour new broadband site	*https://rapidcityjournal.com/news/state-and-regional/govt-and-politics/gov-noem-fcc-commissioner-tour-new-broadband-site/article_b219d425-b70e-5f2f-b58f-8491b4c587dc.html*
5/4/2021	Broadband project connects rural communities across South Dakota	*https://www.keloland.com/news/local-news/broadband-project-connects-rural-communities-across-south-dakota/*
5/3/2021	Carr Visits South Dakota with Thune, Noem, and Johnson	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-372092A1.pdf*
5/3/2021	Carr Applauds Legislation to Expand Access to Telehealth	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-372099A1.pdf*
4/29/2021	Republican FCC Commissioner Calls on Joe Biden's FCC Chair To Reject Pressure on Miami Radio Station Sale	*https://www.newsweek.com/republican-fcc-commissioner-calls-joe-bidens-fcc-chair-reject-pressure-miami-radio-station-sale-1587539*
4/27/2021	The Benny Report, Newsmax	
4/22/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks to Make Spectrum Available for Commercial Space Launches	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-44A3.pdf*
4/22/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Successfully Concludes 800 MHz Rebanding Process	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-41A3.pdf*

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4/21/2021	FCC commissioner rips Democrats trying to block Florida radio station sale to conservative outlet	*https://www.foxnews.com/media/fcc-commissioner-democrats-florida-station-wsua-radio*
4/19/2021	Carr Rejects Democrat Efforts to Politicize Transaction Review	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371715A1.pdf*
4/14/2021	The Communicators with Brendan Carr, C–SPAN	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?510075-1/communicators-brendan-carr*
4/13/2021	China & Big Tech's threat to liberty, Dana Loesch, The First	*https://www.facebook.com/watch/?ref=search&v=2813490775580834&external_log_id=709ae12c-d5ba-4acb-a7bd-f3d2871a13a7&q=Brendan%20Carr%20dana%20loesch*
4/8/2021	FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr: 'Glaring Loophole' in U.S. Policy on Tech from China, The Epoch Time's American Thought Leaders	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1o0DUIiWLPo&list=PLKDm1nJ92oev6PIXA1hDzX5go8UWDt_Op*
4/5/2021	The John Batchelor Show	*https://audioboom.com/posts/7837981-vulnerable-to-compromised-china-manufactured-hardware-brendancarr-fcc-gordongchang-gatestone*
4/5/2021	Brendan Carr, FCC Commissioner—Fearful Biden leadership on 5G won't allow U.S. to keep superiority, Just The News a.m. with Sophie Mann	*https://rumble.com/vfe82d-brendan-carr-fcc-commissioner-fearful-biden-leadership-on-5g-wont-allow-us-.html?mref=1kztv&mrefc=5*
4/1/2021	Carr Welcomes Unanimous Supreme Court Decision Upholding Media Regs	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371277A1.pdf*
4/1/2021	Commissioner Carr Visits Mississippi With Sen. Wicker	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371271A1.pdf*
3/31/2021	Extending U.S. Leadership on 5G: Highlights from a Conversation with FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, AEI	*https://www.aei.org/technology-and-innovation/extending-us-leadership-on-5g-highlights-from-aconversation-with-fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr/*
3/30/2021	Carr Urges Stronger Action on Communist China's Threats and Genocide	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371210A1.pdf*
3/30/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Moves Forward with Round 2 of the COVID–19 Telehealth Program	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-moves-forward-round-2-covid-19-telehealth-program*
3/30/2021	U.S. FCC commissioner urges tougher steps on Chinese network equipment	*https://www.reuters.com/article/us-usa-china-huawei-tech-idUSKBN2BM2TR*
3/25/2021	Carr Applauds Legislation to Expand 5G Workforce	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-371094A1.pdf*
3/25/2021	Net Neutrality Nails Veterans	*https://www.wsj.com/articles/net-neutrality-nails-veterans-11616711836*
3/23/2021	Carr Announces Staff Changes	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370998A1.pdf*
3/18/2021	Carr Welcomes New, Four-Month Timeline for Broadband Maps	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370911A1.pdf*
3/18/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Opens 100 Megahertz of Mid-Band Spectrum for 5G	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-32A3.pdf*
3/18/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Open Radio Access Networks	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-31A3.pdf*
3/18/2021	Carr Statement: FCC to Share Communications Outage Info with Federal & State Agencies	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-34A3.pdf*
3/18/2021	US ratchets up pressure on Chinese telecom firms	*https://www.bbc.com/news/business-56438832*
3/17/2021	Carr Statement on Carriers With Ties to Communist China	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370862A1.pdf*
3/15/2021	Carr Announces Plan to Extend U.S. Leadership in 5G	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370780A1.pdf*

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3/15/2021	GOP FCC commissioner's vision for 5G	
3/15/2021	FCC Commissioner Carr outlines 5G spectrum priorities	*https://www.fiercewireless.com/regulatory/fcc-commissioner-carr-outlines-5g-spectrum-priorities*
3/6/2021	FCC commissioner wants more bandwidth, more jobs in Mississippi	*https://www.palmettocare connections.org/news/fcc-commissioner-wants-more-bandwidth-more-jobs-in-mississippi/*
3/4/2021	Carr Visits Mississippi to Promote 5G Jobs Agenda	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370508A1.pdf*
2/26/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Adopts Report and Order for Emergency Broadband Benefit Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-29A3.pdf*
2/24/2021	FCC commissioner says House Democrats targeting conservative media, One America News	*https://rumble.com/ve606r-fcc-commissioner-says-house-democrats-targeting-conservative-media.html?mref=1kztv&mrefc=10*
2/23/2021	Carr Welcomes Next Steps on 3.45 GHz Band for 5G	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370227A1.pdf*
2/22/2021	Carr Statement: Implementing the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-21-26A3.pdf*
2/22/2021	Carr Responds to Democrats' Efforts to Censor Newsrooms	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370165A1.pdf*
2/17/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Modifying Supply Chain Rules	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370055A3.pdf*
2/17/2021	Carr Welcomes Update on COVID–19 Telehealth Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370052A1.pdf*
2/17/2021	Carr Statement on Close of Bidding in C-Band Auction	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-370066A1.pdf*
2/16/2021	Carr Applauds Introduction of House Republicans' Broadband Agenda	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369998A1.pdf*
2/3/2021	FCC meets with UVA Health to expand telemedicine into patients' homes	*https://www.nbc29.com/2021/02/03/fcc-meets-with-uva-health-expand-telemedicine-into-patients-homes/*
2/3/2021	FCC commissioner concerned about the future of freedom of speech in America, Cavuto, Fox Business	*https://www.foxbusiness.com/video/6228821031001*
2/2/2021	Carr Praises 5G Workforce Bill	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369662A1.pdf*
1/21/2021	Carr Congratulates Acting Chairwoman Rosenworcel	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369422A1.pdf*
1/19/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Annual Broadband Report Shows Digital Divide Is Rapidly Closing	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-annual-broadband-report-shows-digital-divide-rapidly-closing*
1/19/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Modifies DTS Rules to Promote Expanded Use by Broadcasters	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modifies-dts-rules-promote-expanded-use-broadcasters*
1/19/2021	Carr Announces Greg Watson as Policy Advisor	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369362A1.pdf*
1/15/2021	Carr Applauds Announcement of Initial Connected Care Recipients	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369276A1.pdf*
1/15/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Maximizing Efficient Use of 12 GHz Band	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-maximizing-efficient-use-12-ghz-band*
1/15/2021	Carr Statement on Closing of First Phase of C-Band Auction	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369277A1.pdf*
1/15/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Announces Initial Connected Care Pilot Program Projects	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-announces-initial-connected-care-pilot-program-projects*
1/7/2021	Carr Statement: FCC Modernizes Siting Rule for Small Hub and Relay Wireless Antennas	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-modernizes-siting-rule-small-hub-and-relay-wireless-antennas*
1/7/2021	Carr Supports Action for Apparent Educational Service Abuses	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369118A1.pdf*

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1/6/2021	Carr Welcomes Launch of Round 2 of FCC's COVID–19 Telehealth Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-369097A1.pdf*
12/31/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Releases 2020 Communications Marketplace Report	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-releases-2020-communications-marketplace-report*
12/28/2020	Carr Welcomes Action on Connected Care Pilot Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-368974A1.pdf*
12/22/2020	Winning the 5G War, and What To Do About Section 230, with Brendan Carr, Hold These Truths Podcast with Rep. Dan Crenshaw	*https://holdthesetruthswithdancrenshaw.libsyn.com/winning-the-5g-war-and-what-to-do-about-section-230-with-brendan-carr*
12/17/2020	Interview with Commissioner Brendan Carr, Joe Pags Show	*https://www.podchaser.com/podcasts/the-joe-pags-show-537225/episodes/interview-with-brendan-carr-158170408*
12/14/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Launches Proceeding on Revoking China Telecom's Authorizations	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-177A3.pdf*
12/11/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Adopts Rules to Secure Communications Networks and Supply Chain	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-176A4.pdf*
12/11/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Affirms Designation of Huawei as National Security Threat	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-179A3.pdf*
12/10/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Updates Rules to Encourage Broadcast Internet Innovation	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-181A3.pdf*
12/10/2020	FCC Moves Against China Telecom and Huawei, Citing Security	*https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2020-12-10/fcc-considers-barring-china-telecom-from-u-s-over-security*
12/8/2020	Carr Congratulates Nathan Simington on Senate Confirmation	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-368636A1.pdf*
12/5/2020	FCC Commish Brendan Carr Says it's TIME on Section 230!, Joe Pags Show	*https://rumble.com/vbmd13-fcc-commish-brendan-carr-says-its-time-on-section-230.html?mref=1kztv&mc=6zrce*
12/3/2020	Carr Congratulates Representative McMorris Rodgers on Leadership Role	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-368538A1.pdf*
12/2/2020	FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr on Cavuto: Coast to Coast	*https://www.facebook.com/FoxBusiness/videos/fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-on-cavuto-coast-to-coast/424706332103625/*
12/1/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks Comment on Enabling FM Booster Geo-Targeting Capabilities	*https://www.fcc.gov/document/fcc-seeks-comment-enabling-fm-booster-geo-targeting-capabilities*
11/30/2020	Carr Applauds Chairman Pai's Public Service	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-368443A1.pdf*
11/20/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Modernizes 5.9 GHz Band to Improve Wi-Fi and Automotive Safety	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-164A4.pdf*
11/12/2020	Carr Pleased that FCC Policies have Accelerated Internet Builds	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-368117A1.pdf*
11/10/2020	Wireless Coverage at Yellowstone, NATE, Climber Connection	*https://twitter.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1326341743575527425?s=20*
11/5/2020	Carr Supports Launch of Connected Care Pilot Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367991A1.pdf*
11/3/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Streamlines Local Approval of Wireless Structure Modifications	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-153A4.pdf*
10/29/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Responds to Narrow Remand of Restoring Internet Freedom Order	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-151A4.pdf*
10/29/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Establishes a 5G Fund for Rural America	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-150A3.pdf*

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10/29/2020	Meet the man who could lead the GOP's war on platform moderation, The Verge	*https://www.theverge.com/21280814/brendan-carr-section-230-republican-party-regulation-social-media*
10/28/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Modernizes Unbundling and Resale Requirements	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-152A3.pdf*
10/28/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Increases Unlicensed Wireless Operations in TV White Spaces	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-156A4.pdf*
10/27/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Responds to Narrow Remand of Restoring Internet Freedom Order	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367772A4.pdf*
10/20/2020	Carr Visiting Central PA for Rural Broadband, 5G, and Telehealth	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367638A1.pdf*
10/19/2020	Brendan Carr: FCC is ready to take action on big tech, The Sara Carter Show	*https://www.iheart.com/podcast/269-sara-carter-show-46605929/episode/brendan-carr-fcc-is-ready-to-72762396/*
10/19/2020	FCC Commissioner says recent Biden stories blocked on social media 'watershed moment' for big tech, Just the News with Carrie Sheffield	*https://justthenews.com/politics-policy/regulation/fcc-member-says-watershed-moment-big-tech-companies*
10/15/2020	Carr Applauds Chairman Pai's Announcement On Section 230	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367574A1.pdf*
10/14/2020	The Communicators with Brendan Carr, C–SPAN	*https://www.c-span.org/video/?476786-1/communicators-brendan-carr*
10/5/2020	Carr Announces Tower Site Order	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367317A1.pdf*
10/3/2020	Social Media Censorship, Interview with FCC Commissioner Carr, Joe Pags Show	*https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=826564264841401*
10/2/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Expands Access to and Investment in the 4.9 GHz Band	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-137A4.pdf*
10/2/2020	Carr Welcomes Supreme Court Review of Media Regulations	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-367292A1.pdf*
10/2/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks to Facilitate 5G in the 3.45–3.55 GHz Band	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-138A4.pdf*
10/1/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Improves Transparency and Timeliness of Foreign Ownership Review	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-133A4.pdf*
10/1/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Adopts New Rules to Combat Spoofed Robocalls	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-136A3.pdf*
9/29/2020	Brendan Carr Thinks FCC Has Section 230 Authority, But Not Others at Communications Association Event, Broadband Breakfast	*https://broadbandbreakfast.com/2020/09/brendan-carr-thinks-fcc-has-section-230-authority-but-not-others-at-communications-association-event/*
9/18/2020	FCC commissioner: Central Florida to have 5G in 'next couple of years', News 6	*https://www.clickorlando.com/news/local/2020/09/18/fcc-commissioner-central-florida-to-have-5g-in-next-couple-of-years/*
9/17/2020	Carr Visiting Florida for Telehealth and Emergency Response Events	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-366985A1.pdf*
9/17/2020	FCC's Brendon Carr Urges Changes to Section 230, Says His Approach Supports First Amendment	*https://broadbandbreakfast.com/2020/09/fccs-brendon-carr-urges-changes-to-section-230-says-his-approach-supports-first-amendment/*
9/3/2020	Carr Statement on Application Details for Connected Care Initiative	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-366671A1.pdf*
9/3/2020	Carr Visits Ohio with Rep. Latta	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-366653A1.pdf*

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9/3/2020	Latta, FCC commissioner visit local businesses to observe remote services, NBC 24	*https://nbc24.com/news/local/latta-fcc-commissioner-visit-local-businesses-to-observe-remote-services*
8/12/2020	Carr Lauds Ninth Circuit Decision Upholding Small Cell Reforms	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-366138A1.pdf*
8/7/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks to Reduce Rates and Charges for Inmate Calling Services	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-111A3.pdf*
8/7/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Eliminates the Duplication Rule for AM and FM Radio Stations	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-109A3.pdf*
8/7/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Establishes Bidding Procedures for December C-Band Auction	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-110A4.pdf*
8/5/2020	The Joe Pags Show	No Link Located
7/30/2020	Brendan Carr: Give the American people the choice of the 'wild west' Twitter, The Sara Carter Show	*https://www.spreaker.com/user/10614200/sara-carter-073020*
7/30/2020	FCC Commissioner calls out lawmakers ignoring big tech's 'abuse of power,' Lou Dobbs, Fox Business	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Gbv58n0ELS0*
7/27/2020	Carr Welcomes Section 230 Petition	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-365764A1.pdf*
7/20/2020	Carr Announces Agreement on Wireless Infrastructure	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-365617A1.pdf*
7/17/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Proposes to Modernize its Priority Services Rules	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-97A4.pdf*
7/17/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Encourages Blocking of Illegal and Unwanted Robocalls	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-96A4.pdf*
7/17/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Improves Broadband Data and Maps to Bridge the Digital Divide	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-94A4.pdf*
7/17/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Helps First Responders Find 911 Callers in Multi-Story Buildings	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-98A4.pdf*
7/17/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Simplifies Leased Commercial Access Rate Formula	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-95A4.pdf*
7/17/2020	Carr Statement: Designating 988 for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-100A4.pdf*
7/17/2020	Carr Statement: Implementing the Secure Networks Act	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-99A4.pdf*
7/8/2020	Carr Statement on COVID–19 Telehealth Applications	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-365418A1.pdf*
6/30/2020	Carr Statement on Huawei and ZTE	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-365284A1.pdf*
6/25/2020	FCC Ensures Critical Wireless Infrastructure Projects Can Proceed	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-365178A1.pdf*
6/25/2020	Carr Cheers House Broadband Infrastructure Package	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-365175A1.pdf*
6/23/2020	FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr Argues Section 230 Reform Is Necessary, The Federalist	*https://thefederalist.com/2020/06/23/fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-argues-section-230-reform-is-necessary/*
6/23/2020	The Realignment Podcast, Episode 41	*https://the-realignment.simplecast.com/episodes/ep-41-season-finale-cc-commissioner-brendan-carr-big-tech-china-and-the-future-of-the-right-6d3S25pP*
6/23/2020	The Joe Pags Show	*https://twitter.com/JoeTalkShow/status/1275557923649916931?s=20*
6/11/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Adopts Procedures for Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Auction	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-77A4.pdf*

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6/10/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Acts to Accelerate Deployment of 5G Wireless Infrastructure	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-75A4.pdf*
6/10/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Proposes Record $225 Million Fine for 1 Billion Spoofed Robocalls	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-74A3.pdf*
6/10/2020	Is 5G Dangerous? Social Media Censorship, How To Beat China In Tech Cold War, And MORE with FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, The Charlie Kirk Show	*https://omny.fm/shows/the-charlie-kirk-show/is-5g-dangerous-social-media-censorship-how-to-bea?in_playlist=the-charlie-kirk-show!podcast*
6/9/2020	Carr Statement: FCC Seeks to Promote Broadcast Internet Innovation	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-20-73A4.pdf*
6/5/2020	Carr Welcomes Support For Broadcast Internet Initiative	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364764A1.pdf*
6/4/2020	Support Builds for Carr's 5G Upgrade Order	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364733A1.pdf*
6/2/2020	Carr Welcomes Congressional Support for His 5G Upgrade Order	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364694A1.pdf*
6/1/2020	Trump-appointed FCC commissioner says Twitter CEO is 'weaponizing' his business for his 'partisan political beliefs'	*https://www.cnbc.com/2020/06/01/gop-fcc-commissioner-says-twitter-ceo-is-weaponizing-his-business.html*
6/1/2020	FCC commissioner Brendan Carr on free speech on social media, Squawk on the Street, CNBC	*https://www.cnbc.com/video/2020/06/01/fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-on-free-speech-on-social-media.html?&qsearchterm=Brendan%20Carr*
6/1/2020	FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr on Social Media Censorship, Mark Dice	*https://www.bitchute.com/video/gzokmbSXhhg/*
5/30/2020	On Social Media Bias, Trump's Executive Order & the China Data Threat—FCC Commissioner Brendan Carr, The Epoch Time's American Thought Leaders	*https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fGu4v4yM3z0&list=PLKDm1nJ92oesf6vfOUhRKqliKEbCbut7V*
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5/29/2020	Social media regulation, Cavuto, Fox News	*https://twitter.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1266462927936278529?s=20*
5/28/2020	Carr Welcomes Executive Order On Online Censorship	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364629A1.pdf*
5/28/2020	Social Media Regulation, Lou Dobbs, Fox Business	*https://twitter.com/WhiteHouse45/status/1266147550140272641?s=20*
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5/7/2020	Carr Applauds Legislation Honoring Hero Doctor Li Wenliang	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364222A1.pdf*
5/6/2020	Carr Recognizes Tower Climber Jessica Reich with "5G Ready" Hard Hat	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-364193A1.pdf*
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3/30/2020	FCC Now Voting On Carr's Connected Care Pilot Program	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-363382A1.pdf*
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2/18/2020	Commissioner Carr to Visit North Carolina	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-362521A1.pdf*
2/18/2020	Embracing the Innovation 5G will Bring About	*https://www.ourworld.co/embracing-the-innovation-5g-will-bring-about/*
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1/22/2020	5G Deployment Creating Workforce Challenge, Opportunity	*https://www.meritalk.com/articles/5g-deployment-creating-workforce-challenge-opportunity/*
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10/16/2019	Commissioner Carr Applauds Tower Climber Program for 5G Workforce	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-360245A1.pdf*
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10/14/2019	Carr on satellite powered precision farming	*https://www.satellitetoday.com/podcast/2019/10/14/fcc-commissioner-brendan-carr-on-satellite-powered-precision-farming/*
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9/3/2019	Carr to Visit South Dakota for Field Hearing with Senator Thune	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-359435A1.pdf*
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8/6/2019	Carr Statement: FCC Improves Broadband Mapping	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-19-79A4.pdf*
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8/2/2019	Carr Statement: Streamlining Licensing Procedures for Small Satellites	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/FCC-19-81A4.pdf*
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7/22/2019	Montana Ag Network: Rural broadband important to state agriculture industry	*https://ktvq.com/news/montana-ag-network/2019/07/22/montana-ag-network-rural-broadband-important-to-state-agriculture-industry/*
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7/12/2019	West Virginia Tonight	*https://www.capito.senate.gov/news/videos/watch/capito-and-fcc-commissioner-carr-on-west-virginia-tonight*
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8/11/2017	Commissioner Carr Swearing In Statement	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-346176A1.pdf*

Question 20

List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an "alias" or "handle", including the complete URL and username with hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

- *Twitter:* https://twitter.com/BrendanCarrFCC (active)
- *Facebook:* https://www.facebook.com/brendan.carr.31 (active)
- *LinkedIn:* https://www.linkedin.com/in/brendan-carr-0030b126/ (active)
- *Instagram:* https://www.instagram.com/brendancarrusa/ (active)
- *Truth:* https://truthsocial.com/@BrendanCarrFCC (dormant)
- *Clubhouse:* www.clubhouse.com @BrendanCarrUSA (account handle, active)
- *Callin:* https://www.callin.com/user/brendancarrfcc (active)
- *Medium:* https://medium.com/@BrendanCarrFCC (active)
- *Parler:* @BrendanCarrUSA (account handle, inactive) link to account page unavailable

Question 21

Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
2/13/2023	Carr Australian Parliament TikTok Testimony	Written testimony on unique threats of TikTok and support for a ban of the app in Australia	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-391628A1.pdf*
7/13/2022	Carr Testimony Before the House Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on National Security, "Protecting Military Servicemembers and Veterans from Financial Scams and Fraud"	Written and oral testimony on the online threats that active service members, veterans, and their families face, including from apps including TikTok	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-385321A1.pdf*
3/31/2022	Carr Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, "Connecting America: Oversight of the FCC"	Written and oral testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-382687A1.pdf*
10/7/2021	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband, "State of Telehealth: Removing Barriers to Access and Improving Patient Outcomes"	Written and oral testimony on the benefits of telehealth services, expanding Americans' access to such services, and potential hurdles	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-376569A1.pdf*
9/17/2020	Carr Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, FCC Accomplishments and Success of Networks During COVID–19 Pandemic	Written and oral testimony on accomplishments at the FCC and strength of networks during COVID–19 pandemic	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-366974A1.pdf*
6/24/2020	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission"	Written and oral testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-365159A1.pdf*
3/10/2020	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government	Written and oral testimony on 5G buildout, including spectrum and infrastructure	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-362929A1.pdf*
1/22/2020	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, "The 5G Workforce and Obstacles to Broadband Deployment"	Written and oral testimony on 5G workforce and jobs initiatives, accelerating deployment, and the benefits of advanced connectivity to Americans nationwide	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-362042A1.pdf*
12/5/2019	Carr Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, "Accountability and Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission"	Oral and written testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-361210A1.pdf*
9/5/2019	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, "Transforming Rural America: A New Era of Innovation", Southeast Technical Institute, Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Oral and written testimony on the digital divide and the transformative impact of connectivity on rural America	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-361105A1.pdf*
6/12/2019	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission"	Oral and written testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-357969A1.pdf*

DATE	TITLE	DESCRIPTION	LINK
5/15/2019	Carr Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, "Accountability and Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission"	Oral and written testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-357483A1.pdf*
10/12/2018	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, "The Race to 5G: A View from the Field," Sioux Falls, South Dakota	Oral and written testimony from field hearing focused on 5G and delays experienced in siting the infrastructure needed for next-generation technology	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-354564A1.pdf*
8/16/2018	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission"	Oral and written testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-353976A1.pdf*
7/25/2018	Carr Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission"	Oral and written testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-353497A1.pdf*
10/25/2017	Carr Testimony Before the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, "Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission"	Oral and written testimony on FCC oversight	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-347434A1.pdf*
7/19/2017	Carr Testimony Before the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, "Nominee to Serve as Commissioner, Federal Communications Commission"	Oral and written testimony regarding qualifications for position, regulatory philosophy, and priorities at the agency	*https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-346186A1.pdf*

The CHAIR. Thank you, Commissioner Carr. Thank you for that statement. I look forward to seeing the written statement that has more details in it as well. Thank you. Miss, is it Damelin?

Ms. DAMELIN. It is.

The CHAIR. Damelin, thank you so much for your willingness to serve as Inspector General. I think there are very important Inspector General spots all over the Government, but I definitely think yours is a critical one. So, thank you.

STATEMENT OF FARA DAMELIN, NOMINEE TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Ms. DAMELIN. Thank you. Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Committee, good morning and thank you for inviting me to testify today. I am honored to have been nominated by the President to serve as Inspector General for the Federal Communications Commission.

Just over 18 years ago, I sat in a Senate hearing room much like this in support of my father in law, Harold Damelin, who is here today, as he testified at his confirmation hearing to serve as Inspector General at the Department of Treasury, a position to which he was confirmed.

I am grateful to role models like him who have inspired me throughout my career, and for the love and encouragement of my family, friends, colleagues, and mentors. I am happy to introduce my husband, Scott, also here, who I met in the summer of 1992, when we were interns at the D.C. Superior Court.

We have dedicated our careers to Federal service, with Scott having spent nearly 20 years with the Department of Justice. But what we are most proud of is that together we raised two wonderful daughters, Leah, who is here today, and Rebecca, who is watching from Madison, Wisconsin.

Also joining me today are my mom and sister who came in from Connecticut. My mother in law, my sister in law, one of my nephews, and a number of family and friends I really appreciate. I also saw that there are two Inspectors General who I have worked with, Allison Lerner from National Science Foundation, and Deb Jeffrey, who is now at SEC, but was at AmeriCorps.

After almost 28 years of Federal service and nearly two decades with the IG community serving in four different offices of Inspector General, I am both humbled to be here and confident that I am prepared for this opportunity.

Throughout my career, I have been drawn to agencies that administer public benefit programs to support our most vulnerable and underserved populations, protecting the integrity of education, research, emergency relief, small business, national service, and housing programs.

I have a record of vigorously protecting taxpayer funds and designing oversight strategies that strengthen agency programs. For over 14 years as an investigative attorney with NSF, OIG, I conducted complex white collar investigations in coordination with Federal and State law enforcement partners across the country, resulting in criminal convictions, civil settlements, and administrative actions.

In addition, I proactively worked with agency officials to provide anti-fraud training and recommendations to enhance internal controls. As Deputy IG at AmeriCorps, I oversaw the audit, investigative and operational functions of the office, leading efforts to enhance enforcement.

I personally took on the role of Whistleblower Protection Coordinator to elevate the importance of whistleblower protections in education for our office and for the agency at large. Currently, as Chief of Staff for HUD OIG and a member of the Senior Executive Service, I implement the IG's priorities and strategic initiatives and spearhead the production of key oversight products.

Throughout my career, I have thrived at developing collaborative relationships with Federal, State, and local stakeholders. I have learned firsthand about the core values, attributes, and principles that are required of all IGs, and are imperative to earning and keeping the public trust.

The need to be steadfastly independent and nonpartisan, to be accessible and adhere to our dual reporting requirements, and to be objective, thorough, and fair in performing robust oversight.

If confirmed, I would be the first Presidentially appointed and Senate confirmed IG at the FCC, and this role is more critical than ever, because in addition to its regulatory mandate, the FCC is re-

sponsible for administering tens of billions of dollars to ensure that 100 percent of our Nation is connected to fast, affordable, secure, and reliable broadband, for purposes of telehealth, employment, virtual learning, public safety, and national security.

If confirmed, I look forward to leading the dedicated team at FCC's OIG and ensuring that they have the resources, training, and support they need to meet the Office's mission, to keeping Congress fully informed about our oversight in a nonpartizan manner, and to working with the FCC, the Chair, and all the Commissioners in a transparent and independent manner to help strengthen FCC's programs and operations.

I want to thank your staff for the time that they spent with me throughout this process, sharing your priorities and concerns. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing these important conversations. In closing, it would be my privilege and honor to serve as Inspector General at the Federal Communications Commission.

Thank you again for your consideration of my nomination, and I would be happy to answer any questions.

[The prepared statement and biographical information of Ms. Damelin follow:]

PREPARED STATEMENT OF FARA DAMELIN, NOMINEE TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and Members of the Committee. Good morning and thank you for inviting me to testify today.

I am honored to have been nominated by the President to serve as Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission.

Eighteen years ago, I sat in a Senate hearing room as my father-in-law, Harold Damelin, testified at his confirmation hearing to serve as Inspector General (IG) of the Department of the Treasury, a position to which he was confirmed.

I am grateful to role models like him who have inspired me throughout my career, and for the love and encouragement of my family, friends, colleagues, and mentors, who have supported me.

I am happy to introduce my husband, Scott, whom I first met in the summer of 1992 when we were legal interns at the D.C. Superior Court. We have dedicated our careers to Federal service, with Scott having spent nearly 20 years with the U.S. Department of Justice. But what we are most proud of is that together we raised two wonderful daughters, Leah and Rebecca.

After almost 28 years of Federal service and nearly two decades in the Inspector General community, I am both humbled to be here and confident that I am prepared for this opportunity. I spent the first eight years of my Federal career as an employment attorney with the Department of Health and Human Services Office of General Counsel. Since then, I have served almost 20 years in four different offices of inspector general (OIGs), gaining technical knowledge and expertise related to oversight, managing OIGs big and small, as well as leadership training and experience to prepare me for more senior-level positions.

Throughout my career, I have been drawn to agencies that administer public benefit programs to support our most vulnerable and underserved populations—protecting the integrity of research, education, housing, emergency relief, small business, and national service programs. My call to service has been driven by a recognition of the positive impact these programs can have when operating effectively, and the negative impact caused by fraud, waste, and abuse. Beyond my technical expertise, and with the support of the IG's and supervisors who invested in my professional growth, I completed leadership programs offered by OPM's Federal Executive Institute and the IG Community's Professional Development Committee, gaining important managerial and operational skills that have contributed to my success.

My record of vigorously protecting taxpayer funds and our communities from fraud, waste, and abuse; designing and implementing oversight strategies that strengthen agency programs; and leading teams that produce outstanding results, make me uniquely qualified for this position.

For over fourteen years, I served as an investigative attorney with the National Science Foundation OIG, conducting complex criminal, civil, and administrative in-

vestigations across the country in coordination with other Federal and state law enforcement partners, including United States Attorneys' Offices. These cases involved complex schemes related to grant and contract fraud, public corruption, embezzlement, false claims, identity theft, and money laundering, and resulted in criminal convictions and civil settlements. Often in parallel, I proactively sought to protect future government funding and programs through administrative remedies and worked with agency officials to provide anti-fraud outreach, share fraud indicators and analytics, and offer recommendations to enhance internal controls. In addition, I actively participated in multiagency investigative working groups and initiatives to deter fraud; share data; identify new fraud schemes; design proactive plans; develop leads for new cases; and provide anti-fraud resources and training.

As Deputy IG at AmeriCorps for three and a half years, I oversaw the day-to-day audit, investigative, operational, and budgetary functions of the office, leading efforts to enhance enforcement related to fraud and public safety. I personally took on the role of OIG's Whistleblower Protection Coordinator to elevate the importance of whistleblower protections and education for our office and the agency at large. I started a legal intern program to assist with our administrative and civil matters and brought in employees on temporary details from other OIGs to help with our workload and conduct special projects. In addition, I worked with a data scientist to develop a risk model that incorporated internal and external data to proactively identify fraud risk in agency programs, allowing us to prioritize the use of limited resources most effectively.

Currently, as Chief of Staff for the Department of Housing and Urban Development OIG and a member of the Senior Executive Service, I lead a cross-functional team in executing the IG's priorities and strategic initiatives. In this role, I spearheaded the production of key oversight products, to maximize transparency around our work and help strengthen HUD's operations and critical housing and community development programs to protect the individuals and communities that they serve.

Throughout my career, I have excelled at developing collaborative relationships with stakeholders, building networks of key partners, and nurturing talent. In each office, I have been adept at engaging with the subject matter experts to quickly learn the core business functions, unique program requirements, and design and implement impactful oversight. Further, I have effectively communicated key themes and risks of complex programs to the leadership within those agencies, to the public they serve, and to other important stakeholders in furtherance of OIG's mission to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse.

I've learned first-hand about the core values, attributes, and principles that are required of all IGs and are imperative to earning and keeping the public trust:

- The need to be steadfastly independent and nonpartisan;
- To adhere to our dual reporting requirements; and
- To be scrupulously objective, thorough, and fair in performing robust oversight.

If confirmed, I would be the first Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed IG at the FCC since Congress identified the need to designate this as a Presidentially appointed, Senate-confirmed position in 2018. The FCC Inspector General role is more critical now than ever. In addition to its regulatory mandate, the FCC is responsible for administering tens of billions of dollars in legacy and supplemental funding programs to ensure that 100 percent of our Nation is connected to fast, affordable, and reliable broadband for purposes of telehealth, remote work, virtual learning, public safety, and national security.

If confirmed, I look forward to leading the dedicated team at FCC OIG, and ensuring that they have the resources, training, and support they need to meet the office's mission; to keeping Congress fully informed about our oversight, in a non-partisan manner; and to working with the FCC, the Chair, and all Commissioners in a transparent manner, to learn about the challenges they face, and make recommendations to help strengthen FCC's programs and operations.

I want to thank your staff for the time they spent with me throughout this process, sharing your priorities and concerns. If confirmed, I look forward to continuing these important conversations.

In conclusion, it would be a privilege and honor to serve as Inspector General of the Federal Communications Commission. Thank you again for your consideration of my nomination, and I look forward to answering your questions.

A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used):

Fara Damelin.
Fara Danzig (Maiden Name)
Fara H. Danzig (Maiden Name with middle initial)

2. Position to which nominated: Inspector General, Federal Communications Commission.

3. Date of Nomination: March 21, 2023.

4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):
Residence: Information not released to the public.
Office: 451 7th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20410.

5. Date and Place of Birth: January 14, 1970; Plainview, New York.

6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) and the names and ages of your children (including stepchildren and children by a previous marriage).

Scott Randy Damelin, Executive Officer, National Security Division, U.S. Department of Justice
Leah Elise Damelin, 22; Rebecca Simone Damelio, 20.

7. List all college and graduate schools attended, whether or not you were granted a degree by the institution. Provide the name of the institution, the dates attended, the degree received, and the date of the degree.

State University of New York Binghamton, 1987–1991, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science in May 1991
George Washington University National Law Center, 1991–1994, Juris Doctor in May 1994.

8. List all post-undergraduate employment, including the job title, name of employer, and inclusive dates of employment, and highlight all management level jobs held and any non-managerial jobs that relate to the position for which you are nominated.

Employer	Position	Location	Dates
The Limited (Clothing Store)	Sales Associate (Part time)	Georgetown, Washington. DC	Summer 1991 Appx. May–Auaust
Au Bon Pain	Cashier (Part Time)	Washington, DC	Summer 1991 Appx. May–Auaust
D.C. Superior Court—Judge Colleen Kollar-Kotelly	Legal Internship (Unpaid—Part Time)	Washington, DC	Summer 1992 Appx. May–August
Amtrak, Office of the General Counsel	Law Clerk—Paid—Part Time	Union Station Washington, DC	Summer 1993, and through academic year 1993–1994
Crown Books	Sales Associate (Part Time)	(20th and K NW) Washington, DC	Summer 1994
District of Columbia Council Ward 6 Councilmember Harold Brazil	Law Clerk/ Legislative Assistant	Washington, DC	August 1994–August 1995
Temple Beth El	Sunday School Teacher Part Time	Alexandria. VA	Approximately September 1994–May 1995
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of the General Counsel	Attorney	Washington, DC	August 1995–August 2003

Employer	Position	Location	Dates
National Science Foundation, Office of Inspector General	*Investigative Attorney* Later promoted to *Director, Office of Investigations Legal Division*	Arlington, VA Alexandria, VA	August 2003–February 2018
General Services Administration, Office of Inspector General	*6-Month CIGIE Fellow Rotation—Internal Communications*—Career Development Program	Washington, DC	July–December 2017
U.S. Attorney's Office, District of Maryland	Appointed as *Special Assistant United States Attorney* to assist with criminal prosecution. (Continued to serve as Investigative Attorney/Director of OI Legal Division, NSF OIG)	Baltimore, MD	Approximately November 2013–May 2014
AmeriCorps, Office of Inspector General (Formerly Corporation for National and Community Service OIG)	*Deputy Inspector General*	Washington, DC	February 2018–July 2021
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Inspector General	*Chief of Staff*	Washington, DC	July 2021–Present

9. Attach a copy of your resume.
See Attached.
10. List any advisory, consultative, honorary, or other part-time service or positions with Federal, State, or local governments, other than those listed above after 18 years of age.
None.
11. List all positions held as an officer, director, trustee, partner, proprietor, agent, representative, or consultant of any corporation, company, firm, partnership, or other business, enterprise, educational, or other institution.
None.
12. Please list each membership you have had after 18 years of age or currently hold with any civic, social, charitable, educational, political, professional, fraternal, benevolent or religiously affiliated organization, private club, or other membership organization. (For this question, you do not have to list your religious affiliation or membership in a religious house of worship or institution.). Include dates of membership and any positions you have held with any organization. Please note whether any such club or organization restricts membership on the basis of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

Organization	Position/Membership	Dates
McLean Health and Racquet Club	Gym Membership	Approximately 1998–Present
Langley Pool and Tennis Club	Pool Membership	Approximately 2006–Present
Maryland Bar	Member	1994–Present
Association of Certified Fraud Examiners	Member	Approximately 2008–Present

Organization	Position/Membership	Dates
Inspector General Academy	Adjunct Instructor	Approximately 2016–Present
CIGIE Fellows Program	Member of Management Team	Approximately 2019–Present
Girl Scouts of the United States of America	Girl Scout Leader	Approximately 2007–2011 and 2014–2018

As far as I am aware, none of the above organizations restrict membership on the bases of sex, race, color, religion, national origin, age, or disability.

13. Have you ever been a candidate for and/or held a public office (elected, non elected, or appointed)? If so, indicate whether any campaign has any outstanding debt, the amount, and whether you are personally liable for that debt.

No.

14. List all memberships and offices held with and services rendered to, whether compensated or not, any political party or election committee within the past ten years. If you have held a paid position or served in a formal or official advisory position (whether compensated or not) in a political campaign within the past ten years, identify the particulars of the campaign, including the candidate, year of the campaign, and your title and responsibilities.

None.

15. Itemize all political contributions to any individual, campaign organization, political party, political action committee, or similar entity of $200 or more for the past ten years.

None.

16. List all scholarships, fellowships, honorary degrees, honorary society memberships, military medals, and any other special recognition for outstanding service or achievements.

- Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) Awards for Excellence, 2011, 2014, 2019, 2021
  2011 CIGIE Awards Ceremony.pdf
  2014 CIGIE Awards Ceremony.pdf
  2019 CIGIE Awards Ceremony.pdf
  2021 CIGIE Awards Ceremony.pdf
- Selected to participate in and completed CIGIE Fellows Program, 2017
  For more information: *CIGIE Fellows Program | Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency; IGnet*
- United States Attorney's Award, Eastern District of Pennsylvania 2021
- CIGIE Adjunct Instructor Recognition Award, 2016–2019
- United States Attorney's Award, District of Connecticut, 2015
- NSF Director's Awards for Excellence, 2012 and 2014

17. List each book, article, column, letter to the editor, Internet blog posting, or other publication you have authored, individually or with others. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the publication when available.

None.

18. List all speeches, panel discussions, and presentations (*e.g.,* PowerPoint) that you have given on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated. Include a link to each publication when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the speech or presentation when available.

I initiated and co-chaired the development of the Grant Oversight Capstone Report for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), *2The IG Community's Joint Efforts to Protect Federal Grants from Fraud, Waste, and Abuse,* issued in January 2021.

In addition, I have been actively involved in outreach for the Inspector General Community to inform stakeholders about the role of OIGs as well as fraud prevention, detection, and compliance. I've also participated on multiple professional development panels.

I conducted an Internet search and provided hyperlinks to all published materials/videos related to my presentations over the years that I was able to locate. For those not published, I am providing copies of slides, when available. Some of these presentations were panels that did not include slide presentations.

- *Video:* Facilitator: "So you want to be Chief of Staff. . ." CIGIE Professional Development Committee, June 30, 2022 *Lead and Learn: Professional Careers Beyond Audit, Investigations, and Legal—YouTube; Becoming and Leading as a SES or SL It's not Just Technical Part 1 (Program Announcement)*
- PowerPoint Presentation: AmeriCorps OIG, September 3, 2020: *"The Office of Inspector General" (americorpsoig.gov)*
- *Video: Where's George? Moving Your Ideas Forward—Fara Damelin, CNCS OIG—YouTube,* TED Talk, CIGIE Leadership Forum, October 21, 2019; *2019 CIGIE Lead Forum Booklet*
- One of Four U.S. Representatives to attend the International Public Sector Fraud Forum-Grant Fraud Meeting, July 28, 2020 (Slides Attached)
  - Shared compilation of "Leading Practices and Ideas for Protecting Federal Funds from Fraud, Waste, and Abuse" developed in April 2020 {Attached)
- Facilitator, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) Listening Forums, July 2020 {There were no slides prepared for these sessions.)
- One OIG Workplace, Public Affairs Working Group, January 18, 2018 (Slides Attached)
- Panelist, Office of Research Integrity Quest Workshop, August 8, 2017 *O4RE 2017—Agenda | ORI—The Office of Research Integrity (hhs.gov)* (This was a facilitated panel discussion.)
- PowerPoint Presentation: 2017 SBIR Workshop: *Office of Inspector General Guidance (nsfiipconf.com)*
- Criminal Grant Fraud Webinar, "Identifying Victims and Finding Jury Appeal," for DOJ prosecutors through the Executive Office of the United States Attorneys, June 1, 2016 (Slides Attached)
- Society of Research Administrators, NSF Office of Inspector General Investigative Update, October 21, 2015 (Slides Attached)
- Speaker, "Law and Auditor: Key Lessons that Grant Recipients and Grantors Can Learn from JG Audits and Investigations," National Grants Management Association, April 22, 2015 (Unable to locate these slides.)
- Panelist, DOD Procurement Fraud Working Group, Small Business Fraud Investigations, April 30, 2015 (This was a speaking panel with no slides.)
- The Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act, for Department of Homeland Security OIG, July 7, 2014 (Slides Attached)
- Fraud and Waste in the SBIR/STTR Program, May 16, 2014 (Slides Attached)
- NCURA Spring Meeting, NSF OIG Hot Topics, April 24, 2014 (Slides Attached)
- Panelist: "False Claims Act Liability and Hot Topics," Boston Bar Association, April 10, 2013, *False Claims Act Liability: Colleges, Universities and Non-Profits* (Slides Attached)
- PowerPoint Presentation: *NSF Office of Inspector General Hot Topics March (slidetodoc.com),* March 11, 2013, National Council of University and Research Administrators
- Society of Research Administrators, Annual Conference, Investigative Update, October 2, 2012 (Slides Attached)
- "NCET2 Webinar: Defining and Curbing Fraud and Waste in the SBIR Program, September 24, 2012 (Slides Attached)
- PowerPoint Presentation: Compliance and Integrity: An OIG Perspective: *SCCE Conference April 23, 2010 FINAL (corporatecompliance.org)*
- Served as Adjunct Instructor with the Inspector General Academy's Contract and Grant Fraud Training Program since approximately 2016. Provided instruction on Legal Tools and Requirements, and Cooperation and Coordination of Remedies. (Example of Instructional Presentation Attached)

9. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and television appearances, which are on topics relevant to the position for which you have been nominated, including dates. Include a link to each statement when possible. If a link is not available, provide a digital copy of the statement when available.

None. (See above for presentations and outreach).

10. List all digital platforms (including social media and other digital content sites) on which you currently or have formerly operated an account, regardless of whether or not the account was held in your name or an alias. Include the full name of an "alias" or "handle", including the complete URL and usemame with

hyperlinks, you have used on each of the named platforms. Indicate whether the account is active, deleted, or dormant. Include a link to each account if possible.

Facebook: Fara Damelio—*https://www.facebook.com/fara.damelin* (Active)
LinkedIn: Fara Damelio—*https://www.linkedin.com/in/fara-damelin-l989131b0* (Active)

11. Please identify each instance in which you have testified orally or in writing before Congress in a governmental or non-governmental capacity and specify the date and subject matter of each testimony.

None.

12. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency to which you have been nominated, what in your background or employment experience do you believe affirmatively qualifies you for appointment to the position for which you have been nominated, and why do you wish to serve in that position?

As demonstrated by my attached resume, I have over 27 years of Federal service, and have dedicated the past 19 years in progressively responsible positions within the Inspector General community, towards preventing and detecting fraud, waste, and abuse and promoting program efficiency and operational economy at grant making agencies.

In my current role as Chief of Staff for the Office of Inspector General (OIG), U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, I serve as a trusted policy advisor and resource to the Inspector General in connection with the planning, administration, implementation, and evaluation of all programs and activities within the OIG, and effectively represent the Inspector General with internal and external stakeholders including senior officials within the Department. In carrying out the IG's policy agenda and strategic plan, I develop, implement, and evaluate new initiatives and oversight products in support of the OIG vision of influential oversight, through cross component leadership and collaboration.

In my former position as Deputy Inspector General for AmeriCorps OIG, I managed the day-to-day operations of the office, with oversight and accountability for all OIG components. I served as senior policy advisor to and representative of the Inspector General, regularly communicating with the agency's senior leadership, and colleagues in the law enforcement, Department of Justice, and IG communities. I formulated, implemented, and evaluated OIG investigative policies, strategies, priorities, and goals, and led the development of the Semiannual Report. I made executive presentations and delivered briefings on investigations, enforcement, prevention methodologies, and fraud vulnerability assessments, and employed strategic hiring and resource initiatives to build capacity within our small team to maximize our impact.

Prior to joining AmeriCorps OIG, I spent over 14 years with the National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General (NSF–OIG), initially hired as an investigative attorney and later promoted to serve as Director, Office of Investigations Legal Division. I directed and managed seven investigative attorneys and teamed with special agents to perform the full spectrum of investigative activities in multiagency grant fraud investigations, from strategy development to interviews, drafting subpoenas and search warrants, conducting document review and financial analysis, preparing and presenting case referrals to criminal and civil AUSAs, and supporting civil and criminal prosecutions. In addition, I served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to co-prosecute a criminal grant fraud trial resulting in a conviction for seven counts of felony fraud.

At all three agencies where I have served in an oversight capacity, I have been actively involved in protecting Federal grant programs through my participation and oversight of investigations and audits, and through my leadership in community-wide working groups, activities, and the development of key resources. I regularly provide training and outreach to the IG, DOJ, and grantee communities, with the goal of achieving collective positive change. I am also a champion of professional development within the Inspector General community, actively leading and participating in mentorship programs, and facilitating leadership-focused panels and activities.

It would be my honor to serve as Inspector General for the Federal Communications Commission. In this role, I would use the skills, experience, and expertise I have gained throughout my career to lead the OIG in conducting independent and influential oversight to assist the FCC in meeting its critical mission: Bringing affordable, reliable, high-speed communications to all communities across our nation, and ensuring that everyone has the connections they need to gain access to education, jobs, healthcare, and opportunities, as well as helping to ensure, promote, and support public safety and national security.

13. What do you believe are your responsibilities, if confinned, to ensure that the department/agency has proper management and accounting controls, and what experience do you have in managing a large organization?

If confinned as FCC Inspector General, I will independently and transparently carry out my role, as set forth in the Inspector General Act of 1978, to prevent and detect fraud, waste, and abuse and promote economy, efficiency, and integrity within FCC programs. I will do so through leading the OIG in conducting high impact audits, investigations, evaluations, and other proactive reviews to help FCC meet its critical mission. I will' seek to perform influential oversight tied to the FCC's most significant challenges, to include ensuring risk management and strong internal controls.

As set forth above, I have a demonstrated commitment to the OIG mission with almost 20 years of experience within the IG community. Over the last nine years, I have served in senior level OIG positions in three different agencies, leading effective oversight towards protecting Federal programs and their beneficiaries. I have concrete organizational experience covering the broad range of OIG responsibilities and cross-disciplinary functions, as well as advanced leadership skills, that make me uniquely qualified to serve as Inspector General for the FCC.

14. What do you believe to be the top three challenges facing the department/agency, and why?

If I am confirmed as Inspector General, I would work with staffand subject matter experts within the Office of Inspector General, the Federal Communications Commission, Congress, and other stakeholders to identify the top management challenges facing the FCC.

Based upon my review of the FCC's FY 2022–2026 Strategic Plan, the FCC's Agency Financial Report, the October 14, 2022, Management and Perfonnance Challenges, and the OIG's recent semiannual report and highlighted work products, it appears that the FCC faces the following three significant challenges:

- Ensuring program integrity in the administration of the FCC's Universal Service Fund Programs and more recent FCC programs created in response to COVID–19, so that the funding promptly reaches communities in need, while safeguarding these funds from fraud, waste, and abuse.
- Effectively modernizing the FCC's information technology systems to enhance information security and services to its stakeholders.
- Carrying out critical responsibilities to enhance public safety and national security, to include the administration of a Secure Networks Reimbursement Program to remove, replace, and dispose of covered communications equipment in compliance with the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019.

B. POTENTIAL CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

1. Describe all financial arrangements, deferred compensation agreements, and other continuing dealings with business associates, clients, or customers. Please include infonnation related to retirement accounts, such as a 401(k) or pension plan.

None other than my Federal Thrift Savings Plan retirement account.

2. Do you have any commitments or agreements, fonnal or infonnal, to maintain employment, affiliation, or practice with any business, association, or other organization during your appointment? If so, please explain.

No.

3. Indicate any investments, obligations, liabilities, or other relationships which could involve potential conflicts of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

At the request of the Office of Government Ethics, I have signed an ethics agreement (attached) to divest the following individual stocks reported in my OGE Form 278, within 90 days of confirmation:

- Apple, Inc.
- Humana, Inc.
- Intel Corp.
- Microsoft Corp.
- UnitedHealth Group, Inc.
- Verizon Communications, Inc.

4. Describe any business relationship, dealing, or financial transaction which you have had during the last ten years, whether for yourself, on behalf of a client, or acting as an agent, that could in any way constitute or result in a possible conflict

of interest in the position to which you have been nominated. Explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None.

5. Identify any other potential conflicts of interest, and explain how you will resolve each potential conflict of interest.

None.

6. Describe any activity during the past ten years, including the names of clients represented, in which you have been engaged for the purpose of directly or indirectly influencing the passage, defeat, or modification of any legislation or affecting the administration and execution of law or public policy.

In accordance with the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, while serving as Deputy Inspector General at AmeriCorps OIG and Chief of Staff for HUD OIG, I have engaged in discussions with congressional stakeholders related to appropriations and the budgetary resource needs of the OIGs to effectively carry out oversight responsibilities.

In addition, I have periodically assisted the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) by providing information and technical support to congressional stakeholders related to CIGIE's legislative priorities.

C. LEGAL MATIERS

1. Have you ever been disciplined or cited for a breach of ethics, professional misconduct, or retaliation by, or been the subject of a complaint to, any court, administrative agency, the Office of Special Counsel, an Inspector General, professional association, disciplinary committee, or other professional group?

If yes:

a. Provide the name of court, agency, association, committee, or group;

b. Provide the date the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action was issued or initiated;

c. Describe the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action;

d. Provide the results of the citation, disciplinary action, complaint, or personnel action.

No, to the best of my knowledge.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, or municipal entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

3. Have you or any business or nonprofit of which you are or were an officer ever been involved as a party in an administrative agency proceeding, criminal proceeding, or civil litigation? If so, please explain. No.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *nolo contendere*) of any criminal violation other than a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain. No.

5. Have you ever been accused, formally or informally, of sexual harassment or discrimination on the basis of sex, race, religion, or any other basis? If so, please explain.

No, to the best of my knowledge.

6. Please advise the Committee of any additional information, favorable or unfavorable, which you feel should be disclosed in connection with your nomination.

I do not have any additional information to share.

It is my honor to be nominated for the position of Inspector General for the Federal Communications Commission and I greatly appreciate the Committee's time and consideration.

D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency endeavors to timely comply with requests for information from individual Members of Congress, including requests from members in the minority?

Yes, as authorized by law.

2. Will you ensure that your department/agency does whatever it can to protect congressional witnesses and whistleblowers from reprisal for their testimony and disclosures? Yes.

3. Will you cooperate in providing the Committee with requested witnesses, including technical experts and career employees, with firsthand knowledge of matters of interest to the Committee?

Yes, as authorized by law.

4. Are you willing to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Congress on such occasions as you may be reasonably requested to do so? Yes.

Fara Damelin
[redacted]
Maryland Bar Admission ▪ US Citizen

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- Strategic Planning
- Enterprise Risk Management
- Federal Criminal & Civil Law
- Administrative Remedies
- Grant Oversight
- Policies & Training
- Whistleblower Protections
- Investigations
- Senior Policy Advising
- Presentations & Reporting
- Congressional Outreach
- Professional Development

Oversight professional with 27 years of progressively responsible experience in federal service, including nine years in senior-level positions within the Inspector General (IG) community. An adept negotiator with expert knowledge of grants management, investigative standards, risk models, proactive reviews, data analytics, Presidential directives, federal law, regulations, and policies. Certified Fraud Examiner and adjunct instructor with the IG Academy on grant fraud and legal authorities, tools, and remedies. Develops innovative solutions for oversight and enforcement. A servant leader and expert, recognized in IG and Department of Justice (DOJ) communities for grant oversight and the prevention, detection, and passionate pursuit of fraud investigations and prosecutions. A trusted advocate who provides sound policy analysis and direction, legal advice, and guidance on the Inspector General Act (IG Act), OIG audits and investigations, whistleblower rights and protections, employment matters, and internal controls. Extensive experience developing training programs, presentations, and resources for the IG community, grantees, federal employees, and law enforcement partners.

Actively collaborates with the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee, Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee, law enforcement, and US Attorneys' Offices to promote economy, efficiency, and effectiveness, and prevent fraud, waste, and abuse, with extensive experience in providing research, analysis, evaluation, training, and outreach to the IG, federal sector, and grantee communities. Champion for professional development initiatives throughout the IG Community, through active and longstanding participation as speaker, panelist, and facilitator for CIGIE's Professional Development Committee, ongoing support of the CIGIE Fellows Program, and through efforts to attract new talent to the IG Community through outreach and development of executive mentor and intern programs.

RECENT EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

Office of Inspector General **July 2021 - Present**
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
Chief of Staff - Senior Executive Service Position
451 7th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20410

Serves as a principal policy advisor to the Inspector General in connection with the planning, administration, implementation, and evaluation of all programs and activities within the OIG. Carries out the IG's policy agenda and strategic plan for an office of over 500 oversight professionals, through coordination with the Deputy Inspector General and SES leadership team for all OIG components. Serves as a trusted advisor and resource to the IG, and as a critical link in the communication between OIG leadership, OIG staff and stakeholders. Provides leadership in developing, implementing, reviewing, and evaluating new initiatives in support of the OIG mission. Represents the OIG with high level officials within and outside the OIG, to include Cabinet-level and other senior executives within the Department, the IG community, and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee. Serves as voting member of the OIG Engagement Board, through which all audit and evaluation proposals are

reviewed, evaluated, and approved. Uses executive and managerial experience and knowledge of the IG Act and IG community activities to advise the IG and Deputy IG on matters affecting the mission of the OIG and the efficiency of the Department.

Provides senior-level strategic execution of key priority initiatives within the OIG, in overseeing and directing priority internal projects and reports that have a direct impact on the OIG mission, to include leading the development of 2022 Priority Open Recommendations Resource and FY 22 and FY 23 Top Management Challenges Reports. Designed template to provide comprehensive overview of key challenges, recent progress, and impacts of the pandemic, informed by HUD OIG and GAO reports, HUD's strategic plan, outreach to HUD leadership and program officials, and additional oversight products produced by the IG community. Recently appointed to lead a cultural hub within the Chief of Staff team and oversee the development of a robust employee-focused program. Responsible for oversight of three director level leaders: Chief Diversity Officer, Director of Employment Engagement and Workplace Culture, and Director of Professional Development, who will coordinate to develop and implement strategies to enhance the work experience for all OIG employees. With this responsibility, serves as Executive Sponsor of the Employee Engagement Council and Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility Council.

Leads a cross-functional chief of staff team of oversight and communications specialists, to provide fast-paced and dynamic support to the IG and Deputy IG, in the review and approval of all OIG oversight products; in preparing the IG and Deputy IG for senior-level meetings, interviews, hearings and outreach with stakeholders; in developing agendas and talking points for, and communications about, bi-monthly OIG Town Hall meetings; and in supporting the IG in her role as Chair of CIGIE's Professional Development Committee. Develops and leverages relationships with internal and external stakeholders to effectively move the IG's vision and priorities forward.

Championed the development of a new comprehensive IT system to assist the Front Office in receiving, reviewing, and tracking multiple OIG work products, to include audit, evaluation, and investigative reports, Congressional correspondence, policy manual chapters, and other external facing communications and work products. Continues to lead a cross-component team to enhance the original system and design new modules to attach to other workflows, such as the review of OIG policies, clearance items, and Congressional inquiries. Responsible for the development of resources and implementation of training to support the new system.

Actively supports strategic planning and enterprise risk management. Engaged with the Chief Strategy Officer and other component leadership on the development of HUD OIG's strategic plan and Enterprise Risk Management Program. Supports the Chief Risk Officer in addressing OIG-wide policy risk, serving as the principal risk owner, and leading a team to develop and implement an action plan to manage associated risks.

Spearheaded Workplace of the Future Council to develop and execute plans for HUD OIG's transition back to the workplace, resulting in the successful phased return to the workplace beginning in March 2022. Led a cross-component team of senior leaders and delegated staff to implement IG decisions with respect to telework and the decommissioning of field offices, to advise the IG and Deputy IG on return to workplace plans, and on the development of a comprehensive set of tools and resources to achieve that goal. Coordinated with a designated safety coordination team to navigate new COVID-19 surges and evolving federal guidance to update the office's safety framework and FAQs. Leveraged IG community Chief of Staff and Deputy IG networks, to share information and sample policies and guidance from other OIGs with the senior leadership team, which helped inform the IG's decisions and assisted with development of HUD OIG policies and resources. Oversaw development and dissemination of multiple resources and created and implemented a communications plan to promptly share information and keep HUD OIG staff informed.

Leads Chief of Staff community of practice within the IG Community. Collaborated with community partners on the creation of a Chief of Staff network of partners. Plans, coordinates, and leads quarterly meetings by which Chiefs of Staff share critical information and provide support and assistance to each other, to include the sharing

of templates, policies, procedures, and communications around common issues. Solicited expert presentations and discussions around enhancing diversity, equity, inclusion, and accessibility; return to the workplace policies, practices, and challenges; and new resources to include a library of position descriptions from the IG community.

Develops new and innovative strategic internal communications to connect OIG staff to the leadership team, to the mission and work of all OIG components, primarily through enhancements to a dedicated SharePoint site called "insIGht." Oversaw the creation and design of internal sites called "CIGIE Corner" and "From the Desk of the IG," to include all of the IG's communications, interviews, and videos, and to serve as a one-stop shop for the IG to share information with all OIG Staff. Coordinated with the communications team to develop, maintain, and enhance the Office of the Chief of Staff page to share information about leadership development, cross cutting projects and working groups, and other opportunities and training offered internally and throughout the IG Community. Developed and shared unique blogs called "Chief of Staff Chatter" to connect the over 500 HUD OIG employees to each other, to HUD OIG's mission and priorities, and to HUD's programs, to include: Networking Opportunities and Resources, Back to School and Professional Development, Helping Each Other Find Balance and Resilience, and Fostering Inclusion in a Virtual World.

Champions professional development, through planning, coordination, and facilitation of multiple leadership initiatives to include serving as standing member of the CIGIE Fellows Program planning team, internal and external mentoring programs, providing leadership TED talks, facilitating, and moderating panels, and participating in new employee orientations.

Office of Inspector General, AmeriCorps **February 2018 - July 2021**
(Formerly Corporation for National and Community Service)
Deputy Inspector General
250 E Street, SW, Suite 4100
Washington, DC 20525

Oversaw and directed the administrative components of critical program segments, various internal projects, and key high-level organization elements. Directly managed day-to-day operations of 25 employees through five senior managers and support staff and a $6.5 million annual budget. Leveraged organizational skills, innovation and development, staff teaching, training and mentoring, and managing and coordinating complex personnel management and human resources issues and tasks, including hiring, performance, training, facilities management, telework, awards, and messaging. Served as Whistleblower Protection Coordinator, sending critical correspondence to AmeriCorps workforce annually and representing OIG at CIGIE Whistleblower Protection Coordinator working group. Developed the OIG mentor component for CIGIE Fellows Program, teaming 16 professionals with senior-level officials throughout the IG Community.

Made legislative and policy recommendations. Served as senior policy advisor to and representative of the IG on all criminal, civil, and administrative matters. Advocated for legislative change regarding a statutory exclusion for persons convicted of certain felony frauds. Worked with CIGIE Legislation Committee and briefed congressional staff on CIGIE legislative priorities, including proposed enhancements to the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act. Advocated for bringing in a high-level CIGIE Fellow to enhance workforce capacity on the critical Enterprise Risk Management initiative, resulting in the development of an outstanding ERM program.

Built cross-functional coalitions to create innovative solutions. Excelled at creating alliances with prosecutors, successfully leveraging the first relationship with the USAO in Philadelphia into a reference, advocate, and resource for similar cases in other jurisdictions. Took leading role in coordinating activities and meetings of CIGIE's Deputy IG Working Group, to share best practices, high impact initiatives, and coordinate on key issues with cross-agency impact. Participated in various IG-community working groups and other coordinated activities to develop a robust network of community partners to leverage help and guidance.

Consistently produced outstanding written communications. Collaborated on drafting memoranda outlining IG's legal authorities for AmeriCorps and CIGIE, and Management Alert regarding the agency's reorganization. Coordinated and supervised the production of Semiannual Reports, management alerts, and investigative referrals. Drafted leading practices for protecting federal funds in April 2020 for the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) and several IGs to incorporate lessons learned into protecting critical emergency relief funds. Justified conclusions and results utilizing ideas and feedback from multiple IG-wide working groups to revise and update the document for sharing with an international forum in July 2020.

Demonstrated success in presentations, both internally and externally, on the work of the agency. Made substantive presentations to multiple audiences, including government employees, CIGIE committees and working groups, grantee organizations, and the DOJ community, including an October 2019 "TED Talk" presentation to over 1,000 members of the IG community on leadership and successfully moving ideas forward. Over five years of service as volunteer adjunct instructor for IG Academy's Contract and Grant Fraud Training Program. Presented "One OIG Workplace" to the Public Affairs Working Group in early 2018 on the importance of a strong, collaborative, and inclusive culture in the IG community; several OIGs, including GSA OIG, adopted one or more of the recommendations in the presentation.

Planned, executed, and monitored the budget and for efficient use of resources. Assisted with preparing budget comment that focused on increased resources required to oversee agency's Transformation Plan and required high-level Congressional outreach—partnered with IG to develop a written statement of budget needs and outreach additional resources to congressional staff. Actively facilitated the procurement of a 13% OIG budget increase for FY 21, from $5.75 M to $6.5 M annual appropriation, and helped develop and draft a budget request to Congress to increase OIG funding for oversight of the agency's receipt of pandemic-relief funds that significantly expanded funding for its national service programs. Increased workforce and budget capacity by leveraging legal, audit, and data analytics interns to identify proactive initiatives, develop dashboards, expand the suspension and debarment program, draft recommendations to agency management, and lead Civil False Claims Act referrals from audit reports.

Provide expert strategic advice related to OIG audits. Supported Assistant Inspector General for Audit in managing performance challenges from outside audit firms and internal personnel issues. Found opportunities for enforcement referrals from the audit portfolio, heightened audit work visibility and created cohesion in the office. Initiated and developed plan to effectively exchange information and work with the agency to resolve over 25% of unimplemented recommendations from audit and evaluation reports.

Capitalized on extensive knowledge of and experience in grant fraud litigation. Conceived the idea of reaching out to district prosecutors within the same physical jurisdiction of the agency's grants management unit and leveraging those contacts to access prosecutors in other districts. This changed how the office handled fraud allegations by enhancing enforcement efforts, enabled investigators to pursue civil remedies effectively and supported the audit section in referring fraud cases for civil enforcement. Identified a pattern of abuse of national volunteer service grants involving falsified time and effort reports and fabricated mandatory criminal history checks for volunteers. Developed a standard outreach presentation to identify and refer cases involving falsified timesheets, criminal history checks, and misuse of federal funds. Developed and executed plan to identify and travel to specific U.S. Attorneys' Offices to introduce an initiative to enhance enforcement and prevent and pursue fraud. Efforts resulted in several accepted referrals throughout the country, culminating in multiple criminal plea agreements and civil settlements totaling over $3.8 million, associated debarment actions, and several active referrals. These cases had a deterrent and educational effect, enhancing fraud prevention and detection.

Initiated and co-chaired the development of Grant Oversight Capstone Report for the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE), issued in January 2021. Collaborated with professionals across the IG Community to produce a public-facing guide to recent investigations, audits, and evaluations from over 20 OIGs at grant-making agencies and highlighting cross-disciplinary work of the IG community to protect federal grant funds. It is organized by the grant process's lifecycle – with identified risks at each stage – and makes recommendations for fraud prevention measures moving forward.

Office of Inspector General, National Science Foundation August 2003 - January 2018
Director, Office of Investigations Legal Division May 2013 - January 2018
Investigative Attorney August 2003 - April 2013
2415 Eisenhower Ave.
Alexandria, VA 22314

Effectively led, directed, and managed seven investigative attorneys who teamed with special agents and investigative scientists to investigate allegations of fraud and research misconduct related to NSF programs and grants. Monitored workloads, assigned cases, advised other investigative attorneys, participated in senior management meetings and activities, while continuing to carry an average caseload of six fraud investigations.

Leveraged Human Resources (HR) expertise; promoted professional development and growth. Advised IG and senior leadership on sensitive personnel issues with thorough and timely advice that allowed management to address issues appropriately. Encouraged staff to engage and become involved in the IG community and initiatives to support the OIG mission to become change leaders. Instructed two IG Academy courses and conducted a webinar on grant fraud for the Department of Justice (DOJ). Participated in the NSF OIG Mentoring Program.

Built cross-functional coalitions and represented OIG at high-level meetings, workgroups, committees, and teams, to include active participation on the Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force's Grant Fraud Working Group. Organized and moderated two community-wide workshops on suspension and debarment and small business fraud. Co-led the response to GAO-review regarding measures taken to prevent fraud in the SBIR program and worked with NSF to improve its financial drawdown certifications per Uniform Grant Guidance.

Extensive technical credibility. Teamed with special agents to conduct multiagency grant fraud investigations resulting in one criminal trial conviction, five criminal plea agreements, over $5.5 million in criminal restitution, and eight Civil False Claims Act settlements, recovering over $5 million. Performed the full spectrum of investigative activities, from strategy development to interviews, drafting subpoenas and search warrants, conducting document review and financial analysis, and preparing and presenting referrals to criminal and civil AUSAs, and supporting civil and criminal prosecutions. Served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney to co-prosecute a criminal trial resulting in a conviction for seven counts of felony fraud. Briefed the National Science Board, stakeholders, and CIGIE working groups on a wide range of oversight topics and case studies

Hosted two OIG-wide training workshops: (1) Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Investigations Workshop, "Protect, Pursue, Prosecute," and (2) Suspension and Debarment Workshop, "Suspension, Debarment, and Coordination of Remedies: Effective Lifecycle Communication is the Key." Brought together key stakeholders from the IG community, program officials, and federal prosecutors to enhance the use of administrative remedies and to better protect small business programs from fraud.

Initiated and oversaw development of NSF-OIG Grant Fraud Case Digest to highlight successful civil and criminal prosecutions to increase the number of substantiated investigative referrals accepted by DOJ attorneys for civil and criminal prosecution. This law enforcement sensitive digest serves as a one-stop resource for prosecutors handling OIG referrals, to include civil complaints and settlements, criminal indictments, plea agreements and jury instructions, and associated press releases.

Participated in CIGIE Fellows program to develop enterprise leadership skills. Detailed for six months to the General Services Administration (GSA) OIG to plan and implement internal communications initiatives.

Drafted recommendation to enhance IG Community's use of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act (PFCRA), a statute allowing federal agencies to administratively pursue smaller dollar value fraud claims. Served on a working group under the Small Business Administration (SBA) OIG to develop a legislative recommendation to address statutory impediments and draft a comprehensive practitioner's guide. Co-developed and delivered outreach presentations on standing up a PFCRA program and pursuing PFCRA cases. Recognized with a CCIG Award and Letter of Commendation from SBA IG.

EARLY PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

General Attorney, Office of the General Counsel **August 1995-August 2003**
United States Department of Health and Human Services, Washington, DC

- Represented agency before Equal Employment Opportunity Commission and Merit Systems Protection Board
- Assisted Department of Justice attorneys with federal employment litigation

EDUCATION

GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY NATIONAL LAW CENTER
J.D., with Honors, May 1994

STATE UNIVERSITY OF NEW YORK AT BINGHAMTON
B.A., Political Science, May 1991

SELECT PROFESSIONAL & LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

Government Executive Change Maker's Summit, sponsored by Senior Executive Association and Partnership for Public Service, 2022
CIGIE Leadership Forum, 2017 – 2022
CIGIE Women in Leadership Forum, 2019
CIGIE Fellows Program, 2017
OPM Federal Executive Institute's Leadership for a Democratic Society, 2016 – 2017
Washington Executive Seminar, Graduate School USA, 2015
Federal Employment Law Supervisor Series, 2013
Certified Fraud Examiner (CFE), 2008

SELECT PRESENTATIONS

"So you want to be Chief of Staff…" Facilitator, CIGIE Professional Development Committee, June 30, 2022
"It's All about the Dash," Leadership Talk at CIGIE Flash Mentoring Event, February 23, 2022
One of Four U.S. Representatives, International Public Sector Fraud Forum-Grant Fraud, July 28, 2020
Facilitator, Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) Listening Forums, July 2020
"Where's George? Moving Your Ideas Forward" TED Talk, CIGIE Leadership Forum, October 21, 2019
One OIG Workplace, Public Affairs Working Group, January 18, 2018
Panelist, Office of Research Integrity Quest Workshop, August 8, 2017
Criminal Grant Fraud Webinar, "Identifying Victims and Finding Jury Appeal," for DOJ prosecutors through the Executive Office of the United States Attorneys, June 1, 2016
Speaker, "Law and Auditor: Key Lessons that Grant Recipients and Grantors Can Learn from IG Audits and Investigations," National Grants Management Association, April 22, 2015
Panelist, DOD Procurement Fraud Working Group, Small Business Fraud Investigations, April 30, 2015
"Best and Worst Practices of Federal Grantees," Society of Research Administrators, October 20, 2015
"False Claims Act Liability and Hot Topics," Boston Bar Association, April 10, 2013

SELECT AWARDS

CIGIE Awards for Excellence, 2011, 2014, 2019 and 2021
United States Attorney's Award, Eastern District of Pennsylvania, 2021
CIGIE Adjunct Instructor Recognition Award, 2016 - 2019
United States Attorney's Award, District of Connecticut, 2015
NSF Director's Awards for Excellence, 2012 and 2014

NSF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL FALSE CLAIMS ACT LIABILITY AND HOT TOPICS BOSTON BAR ASSOCIATION APRIL 10, 2013

FARA DAMELIN
INVESTIGATIVE ATTORNEY

1

WHAT IS AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL?

Each federal agency has independent OIG

OIG missions:

- Prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse
- Promote economy, effectiveness, efficiency
- Keep agency **head** and Congress fully and currently informed

OIG Tools To Meet Mission Goals:

- Investigations
- Audits

2

BACKGROUND: NSF OIG INVESTIGATIONS

Who Are We?

- Special agents (Federal Law Enforcement Officers)
- Investigative Scientists
- Investigative Attorneys
- Analysts

How are investigations initiated?

- Reactive
- Proactive

What types of Investigations?

- Civil/Criminal
- Administrative

3

WHAT TYPES OF ISSUES DO WE INVESTIGATE?

CIVIL/CRIMINAL

- Theft/embezzlement
- Financial mismanagement
- Misuse of grant funds
- Conflicts of Interests

ADMINISTRATIVE

- Research Misconduct: Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification
- Conflicts of Interests
- Merit review violations

4

FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS
HOW DO GRANTEES GET IN TROUBLE

Embezzlement/Theft

- Using grant funds to pay for personal mortgage payment, bedroom furniture, vacations, American Idol tickets

False Statements

- Falsely asserting support of a key organization in proposal
- Falsely asserting collaboration with a foreign scientist
- Falsely certifying eligibility requirements for award program
- Falsely certifying required matching funds (cost-sharing)
- False financial reporting



FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS:
HOW DO GRANTEES GET IN TROUBLE?

- **FALSE CLAIMS**
  - Claiming reimbursement for grant funds not spent on funded project
  - Grantee-approved no cost extension just to spend remaining grant funds
  - Drawing down federal funds for unallowable expenses
  - False Interim Reports and Milestone Charts in SBIR/STTR Phase II Awards
- **MISMANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS**
  - Co-mingling federal and non-federal funds
  - Failing to account for expenditure of federal funds
  - Transferring costs from overdrawn project accounts
  - Charging one grant for expenditures of another
  - Failing to know, follow, or care about applicable rules
  - Expending funds after award expiration date



POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF CIVIL/CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

- **Civil Action**
  - Civil False Claims Act (Treble damages)
- **Criminal Action (Prosecution)**
  - Criminal False Claims/False Statements
  - Theft/Embezzlement
  - Mail/Wire Fraud
  - Conspiracy and Obstruction
- **Administrative Action**
  - Suspension/termination of current NSF awards
  - Government-wide suspension/debarment
  - Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act

7

HOT TOPIC

GOVERNMENT-WIDE SUSPENSIONS AND DEBARMENTS

To protect federal funds from those who are not "presently responsible"

Consequences:

- Central GSA Excluded Parties List
- Applies to all prospective grants and contracts over $25,000
- If one agency imposes, barred from ALL federal funds

Recent Trend:

- Fact-based suspensions imposed during ongoing investigations

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HOT TOPIC

SBIR/STTR FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

Background &Purpose of SBIR/STTR Programs

Eligibility Requirements

Relationship with Universities

Common Types of Abuse

- Facilities
- Primary Employment
- Overlapping/Duplicative funding

Investigative Outcomes

- Indictments for false statements/false claims/theft of federal program funds/mail fraud/wire fraud
- Government wide suspension and debarment

9

REASONS WHY UNIVERSITIES WANT TO KNOW WHEN A UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE IS A PI ON AN SBIR/STTR AWARD

1. **Because a PI on an SBIR/STTR award must be "primarily employed" by the company that receives the federal funds**
2. **Because serving as a PI on an SBIR/STTR award requires a time commitment**
3. **Because of likely conflicts of interest that must be managed**
4. **Because the university must know of all current and pending support for PIs applying for federal funds through the university**
5. **Because some PI's on SBIR/STTR awards wrongfully perform work on SBIR/STTR awards at university labs with university equipment**

10

TOP 10 THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY TO AN OIG INVESTIGATOR

1. Do you think I have time to read all of your rules?
2. Time and Effort Policy? Well, we don't actually have one of those yet.
3. Sorry, I can't get you the records; they are being archived in a dangerous building.
4. Wow..Really? No! Entertainment can't be charged to federal awards? Is a trip to Universal Studios considered entertainment?
5. If I have to go back and create cost share records now, that's what I'll do!



TOP 10 (OR 11) THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY TO AN OIG INVESTIGATOR

6. Wow, I had no idea our records were such a mess.
7. I probably threw out the COI disclosure form…I throw out anything that looks bureaucratic.
8. Chicken Dinner Analogy: which goes…
9. I signed the purchase requisition because I saw that everyone else signed too.
10. No, I haven't received any formal training about federal grants management. BUT I have received "on the job" training.
11. Well, sure, if you are going to rely on our time sheets, you would probably have a pretty good False Claims Act case.



NUMBER 12:
BUT…WE DID THE WORK!!!

Very common defense to grant fraud cases

Problem Scenario: If grantee receives $1 million to carry out a funded proposal, carries out the work for $500,000, and spends the full amount of the award….

We still need to know where the other $500,000 went….AND

The Grantee can still be charged for false claims associated with the other $ ½ million



NOTE ON EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Sometimes it is not what a grantee/PI says, but instead, what the grantee/PI writes, that could cause some trouble.

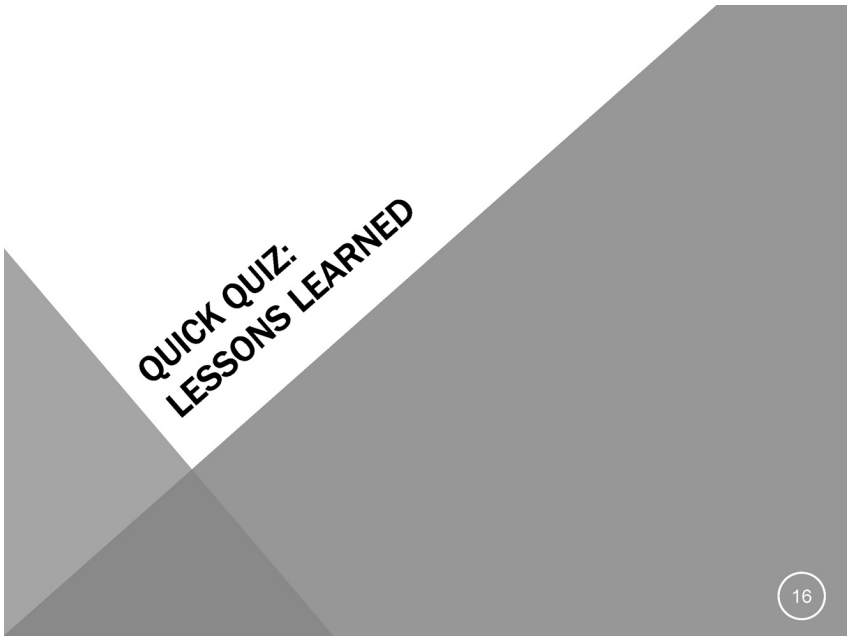
Examples….



HOW TO AVOID TROUBLE:

1. **Read and know the applicable grant conditions, rules and regulations when receiving federal grant funds:**
   - Provide and Document Training (Mandatory)
2. **Maintain (during, not after the fact) adequate documentation to support all expenditures, including cost share**
3. **Ensure your financial reporting matches your financial records**
4. **Do not expend award funds post-expiration or for purposes unrelated to the award**
5. **Do not provide inaccurate information or false certifications to Grantee institution or Federal Agency**





MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION 1

You receive an IG Subpoena requesting all time sheets for an expired NSF Award.

A. Because you didn't maintain any time sheets during the award period, you create new ones, back date them and submit them in response to the IG subpoena?

B. You had maintained two sets of time sheets for the same time periods that you charged to two separate federally funded projects. You respond to the subpoena by only producing one set of timesheets.

C. You had maintained timesheets, but you had a policy of charging time to projects based not on the work that was performed, but instead, on how much money was available in each project account. You submit those timesheets in response to the IG subpoena with a representation that they reflect actual work performed.

D. None of the above.



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION 2:

You work in the Office of Sponsored Programs and are responsible as one of several signatories on purchase orders for Equipment . You receive a purchase order that only contains an order product number, with no description.

A. You sign the purchase order because two other people including the department chair signed off on it first.

B. You sign the purchase order because you believe it is for equipment, and there is still funding available in the budget for equipment.

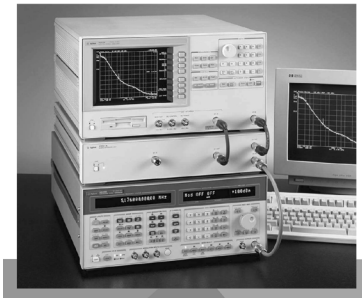
C. You sign the purchase order because you believe the PI is responsible for and can be trusted to ensure that whatever is being ordered is related to the grant.

D. None of the above.



NSF Award Budget includes the purchase of Engineering Equipment, but Cameras purchased instead:

Agilent Technologies
Signal Analyzer
$67,970



Dodd Camera and Video
Sinar P3 Camera + accessories
$44,346



MULTIPLE CHOICE QUESTION 3:

You receive a written request by an OIG to produce a General Ledger to document expenditures on an NSF award:

A. As a PI for an SBIR Phase I award, you didn't actually account for your $149,000 Phase I award during the award period. But to respond to the OIG request, you create a GL that you produce to OIG. Because some of the money was spent on personal expenses, you eliminate any reference to those expenditures, and create new expenditures for office expenses.

B. As an administrator at a university, you realize that expenditures were not well documented or supported. So you produce three different GL's to OIG in hopes that one of them suffices.

C. You work at a non-profit company that has the practice of comingling federal and non federal funds in one project account, without discretely accounting for federal award funds. In addition, your company charges all project expenses to the commingled funds whether or not permissible under federal award conditions. Because you can't demonstrate how federal award funds were spent, you submit documentation for all project expenses.

D. None of the above.

OIG REQUESTS GENERAL LEDGER FOR A CLOSED COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT

Cooperative agreement: $2,494,078

Initial response: $2,201,728

During site visit: $2,533,078

Response to IG subpoena: $2,494,078



HOT OFF THE PRESS: RECENT CASES

University PI Indicted, Pled Guilty and Sentenced for Theft of Federal Program Funds

- For using grant funds to purchase photography equipment for personal use, instead of engineering equipment as proposed: Home Confinement, Restitution and Probation
- For diverting federal grant funds for personal travel, billing as business conferences and submitting false registrations and receipts: Restitution, Fine and Probation

STTR/SBIR PI 's Indicted for Wire Fraud and Obstruction

- For diverting federal grant funds for personal credit card debt and mortgage, and falsely certifying eligibility requirements for the small business award and creating fake expenditure
- For falsely certifying primary employment and diverting $100,000 for personal credit cards
- For falsely certifying no overlapping funding and primary employment

Grantees Settle Civil Cases with Federal Government and enter into Mandatory Compliance Plans

- In FCA Cases:
  - University failed to maintain adequate documentation and reallocated certain costs without required prior written approval
  - University employee misused grant funds intended for students
- In Common Law Case: Financial accounting system unable to demonstrate that expenses charged to federal funds were allowable, reasonable and allocable

23

KEY TO PREVENTION?

Compliance Programs



Government

Institution/University

Researcher

24

COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

A SYSTEM OF RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT, CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH EMPLOYEES CAN OPERATE WITH INTEGRITY

Compliance Programs can be implemented voluntarily or mandated as part of negotiated resolution

Compliance Programs Require:

- Leadership - commitment to do the right thing
- Management - ethical environment
  - Focus on high risk areas
  - Provide systematic monitoring, auditing, oversight
- Training - Communicate facts and expectations
- Action - Early detection and correction problems
- Reporting – Relay information regarding wrongdoing



ELEMENTS OF AN EFFECTIVE COMPLIANCE PROGRAM

1. Reasonable Compliance Standards and Procedures
2. Specific High-Level Personnel Responsible
3. Due Care in Assignments with Substantial Discretionary Authority
4. Effective Communication of Standards and Procedures
5. Establish Monitoring and Auditing Systems and Reporting Systems (whistleblowing without fear of retaliation)
6. Consistent Enforcement of Standards
7. Respond Appropriately to the Offense (reporting to law enforcement, modify program, prevention)

* Federal Sentencing Guidelines U.S.S.G. 8B2.5(f) & 8D1.4(c)(1) (11/1/04)



BENEFITS OF COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS

- **Demonstrates commitment to ethical conduct**
- **Ensures Accountability**
- **Minimizes or detects criminal conduct**
- **Encourages reporting**
- **Creates awareness through training**
- **Prevents improper expenditures; improves grant administration**
- **May help avoid the filing of legal actions**
- **Mitigation, e.g., may reduce penalty or administrative actions**

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HOW COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS ARE DEVELOPED

VOLUNTARY

Many universities and non-profits voluntarily creating compliance programs

- They recognize the benefits
- They see it as the right thing to do

CoGR June 2005 Guidance

- Encourages voluntary compliance programs as means for institutions to meet compliance obligations

28

AND "NOT SO VOLUNTARY"

Trend: DOJ incorporates mandatory compliance plans into settlements with grantees for:

- Overcharging IDC
- Misusing federal grant funds
- Creating false cost-share certifications
- Double billing
- Maintaining false time and effort reports
- Failing to discretely account for federal award expenditures or maintain adequate documentation

These mandatory compliance plans generally 5 years, require annual compliance audits, and provide monitoring by federal agency.



WHAT'S NEW?

THE OMB OMNICIRCULAR... WHAT'S THAT?

PFCRA, What do those letters stand for?



QUESTIONS



31

WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Surf Our Website:
www.nsf.gov/oig

- NSF OIG Brochures
- NSF OIG Semiannual Reports
- NSF OIG Outreach Presentations
- NSF OIG Case Closeouts

32

CONTACT INFORMATION

Anonymous Communications:

Hotline:1-800-428-2189 OR www.nsf.gov (click on IG Hotline)

Confidential Communications

E-mail: oig@nsf.gov

Mail: NSF—ATTN: OIG HOTLINE
4201 Wilson Boulevard; II-705
Arlington, VA. 22230

Fara Damelin, Investigative Attorney, OIG/NSF

fdamelin@nsf.gov

703/292-8873

1

CRIMINAL GRANT FRAUD WEBINAR: IDENTIFYING VICTIMS AND FINDING JURY APPEAL

Pamela Van Dort, Investigative Attorney, NSF OIG,

Mike Pritchard, Senior Special Agent, NSF OIG

Fara Damelin, Director, Office of Investigations
Legal Division, NSF OIG



FY14 Federal Spending

Total $3.77 T.

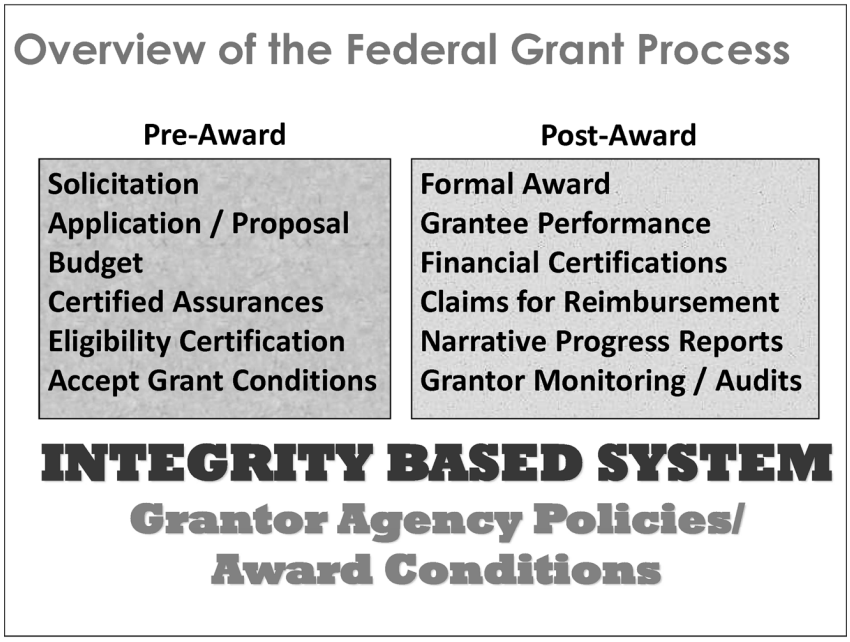
Grants $590.7 B.

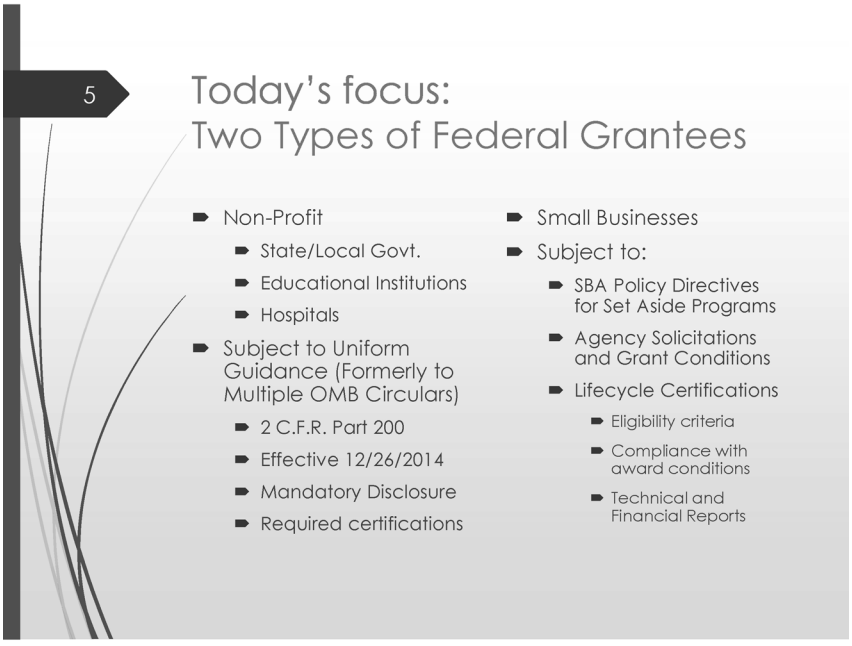
Contracts $445.3 B.

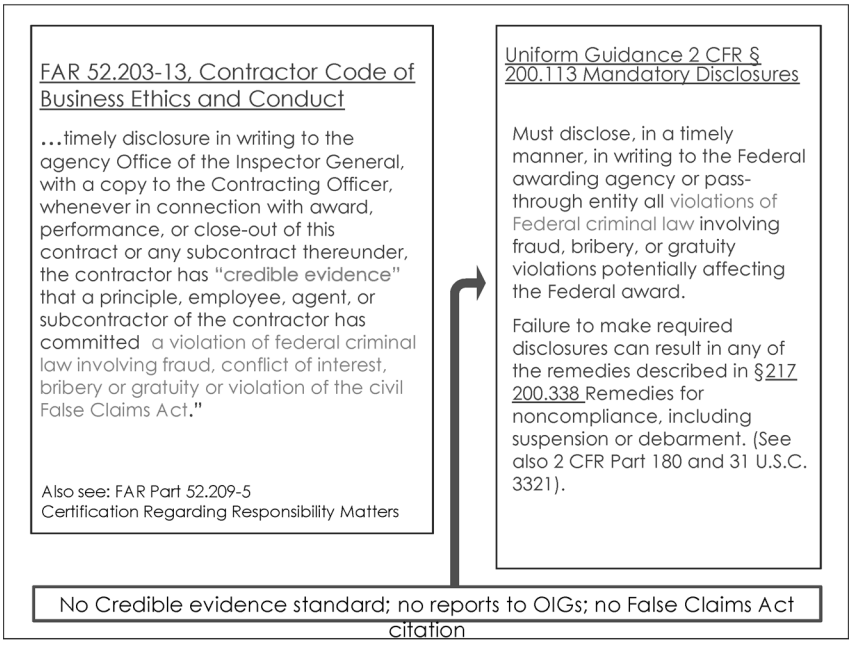
Loans $6.4 B.

Agency	Grant Dollars
Health and Human Services	$381.5 B.
Transportation	$60.7 B.
Education	$43.2 B.
Agriculture	$33.0 B.
Housing and Urban Development	$12.1 B.
USAID	$9.7 B.
Labor	$8.8 B.
Homeland Security	$8.7 B.
National Science Foundation	$6.4 B.
Defense	$5.5 B.
Environmental Protection Agency	$4.5 B.
Energy	$3.9 B.
Interior	$3.8 B.
Justice	$2.1 B.

Source: www.usaspending.gov, March 6, 2015 Note: Only top 14 agencies shown.

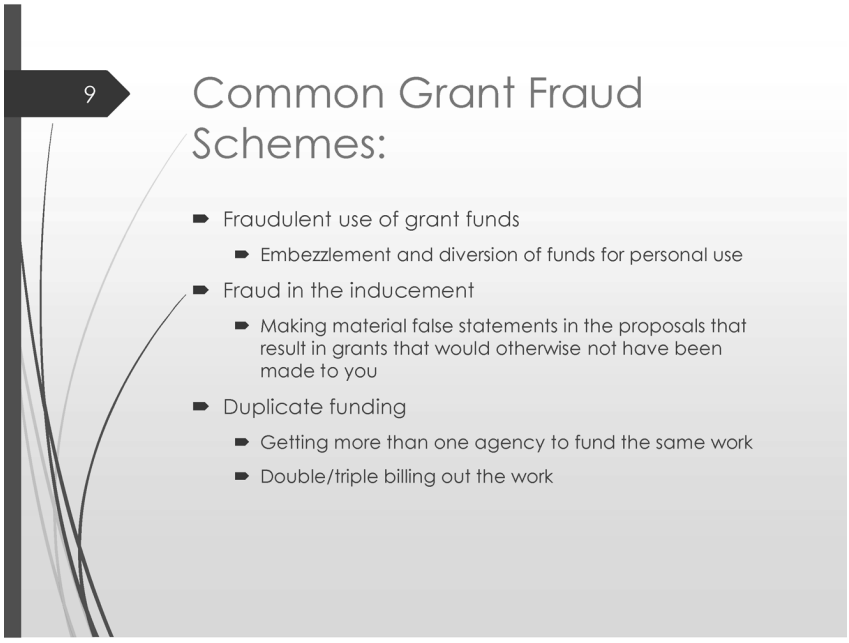

Overview of the Federal Grant Process
Pre-Award
Solicitation
Application / Proposal
Budget
Certified Assurances
Eligibility Certification
Accept Grant Conditions
Post-Award
Formal Award
Grantee Performance
Financial Certifications
Claims for Reimbursement
Narrative Progress Reports
Grantor Monitoring / Audits
INTEGRITY BASED SYSTEM
Grantor Agency Policies/
Award Conditions


5
Today's focus:
Two Types of Federal Grantees
Non-Profit
State/Local Govt.
Educational Institutions
Hospitals
Subject to Uniform Guidance (Formerly to Multiple OMB Circulars)
2 C.F.R. Part 200
Effective 12/26/2014
Mandatory Disclosure
Required certifications
Small Businesses
Subject to:
SBA Policy Directives for Set Aside Programs
Agency Solicitations and Grant Conditions
Lifecycle Certifications
Eligibility criteria
Compliance with award conditions
Technical and Financial Reports

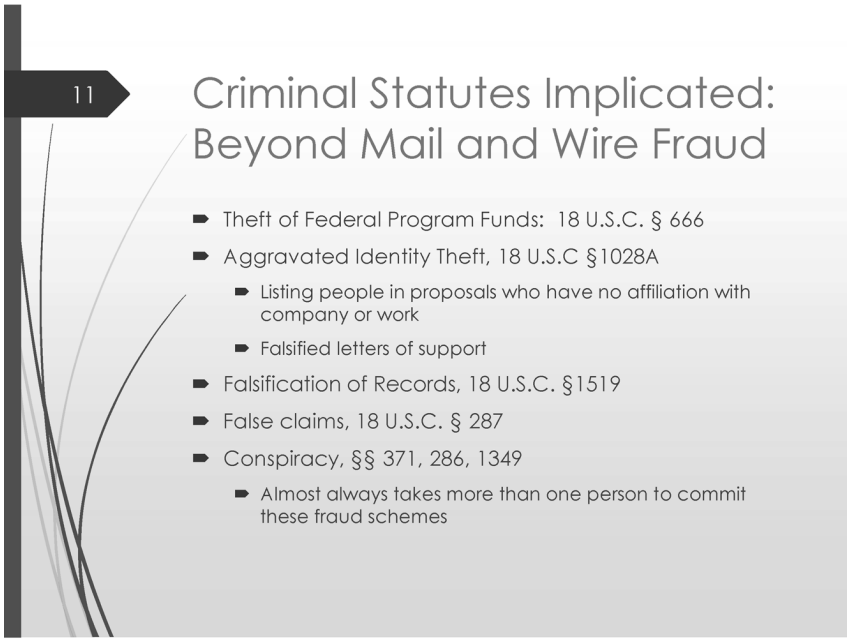

FAR 52.203-13, Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct
…timely disclosure in writing to the agency Office of the Inspector General, with a copy to the Contracting Officer, whenever in connection with award, performance, or close-out of this contract or any subcontract thereunder, the contractor has "credible evidence" that a principle, employee, agent, or subcontractor of the contractor has committed a violation of federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery or gratuity or violation of the civil False Claims Act."
Also see: FAR Part 52.209-5 Certification Regarding Responsibility Matters
Uniform Guidance 2 CFR § 200.113 Mandatory Disclosures
Must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award.
Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in §217 200.338 Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR Part 180 and 31 U.S.C. 3321).
No Credible evidence standard; no reports to OIGs; no False Claims Act citation

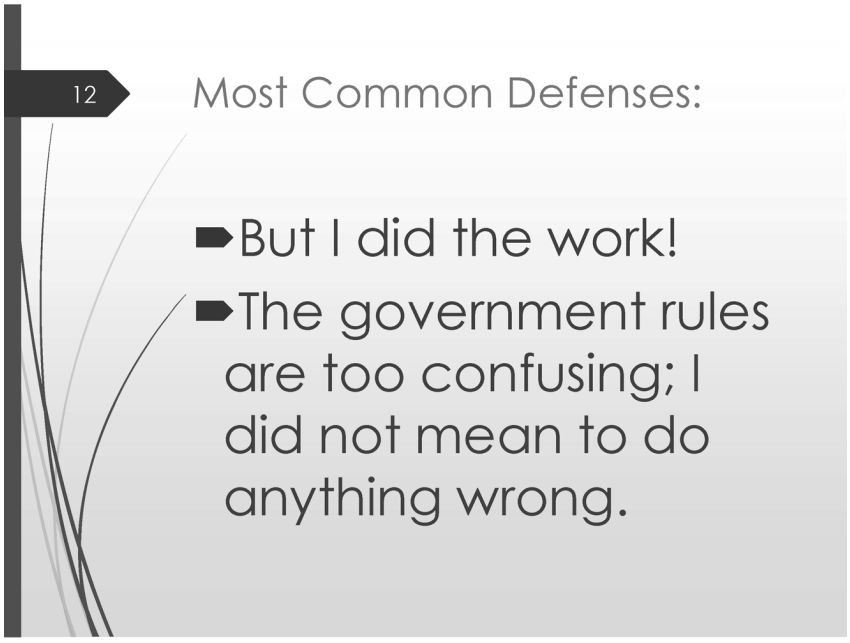

7
Certifications:
2 C.F.R. 200.415
"By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812)."

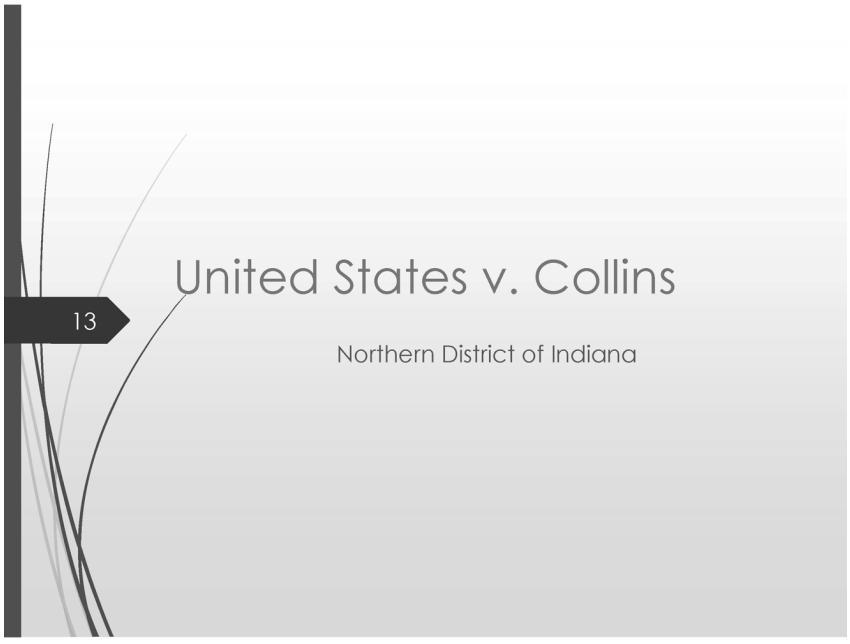

8
Finding the Documents and Certifications:
Proposals and budgets (Refer back to solicitations)
Panel reviews
Award documents: Letters, Grant Conditions, Policy and Procedures Guides
Training Materials
Correspondence
Interim reports and certifications
Final reports and certifications
Financial Draw Downs and certifications


9
Common Grant Fraud Schemes:
Fraudulent use of grant funds
Embezzlement and diversion of funds for personal use
Fraud in the inducement
Making material false statements in the proposals that result in grants that would otherwise not have been made to you
Duplicate funding
Getting more than one agency to fund the same work
Double/triple billing out the work


10
Identifying Victims and Loss:
Victims beyond the Federal Government/Taxpayer
Students
Colleagues/former collaborators
Family members
Other prospective grantees whose awards are not funded due to the defendant's lies
Loss
A challenge in some of our cases where some work was performed and research reports produced
Presumptive loss in set-aside programs


11
Criminal Statutes Implicated: Beyond Mail and Wire Fraud
Theft of Federal Program Funds: 18 U.S.C. § 666
Aggravated Identity Theft, 18 U.S.C §1028A
Listing people in proposals who have no affiliation with company or work
Falsified letters of support
Falsification of Records, 18 U.S.C. §1519
False claims, 18 U.S.C. § 287
Conspiracy, §§ 371, 286, 1349
Almost always takes more than one person to commit these fraud schemes


12
Most Common Defenses:
But I did the work!
The government rules are too confusing; I did not mean to do anything wrong.


13
United States v. Collins
Northern District of Indiana

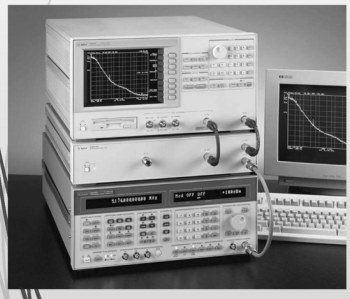
14

Case overview

- University referred the case after having caught the fraud and conducted its own investigation and interviews
- Two NSF Grants implicated, plus university cost share
  - Intent of one award was to fund engineering equipment
  - Total equipment budgets of $286,000
- Scheme: tenured professor used federal grant funds and university cost share funds to purchase unauthorized equipment

Engineering equipment?

Agilent Technologies
Signal Analyzer
$67,970



Dodd Camera and Video
Sinar P3 Camera +
accessories
$44,346



Dotworkz
Axis Network camera
$2,604





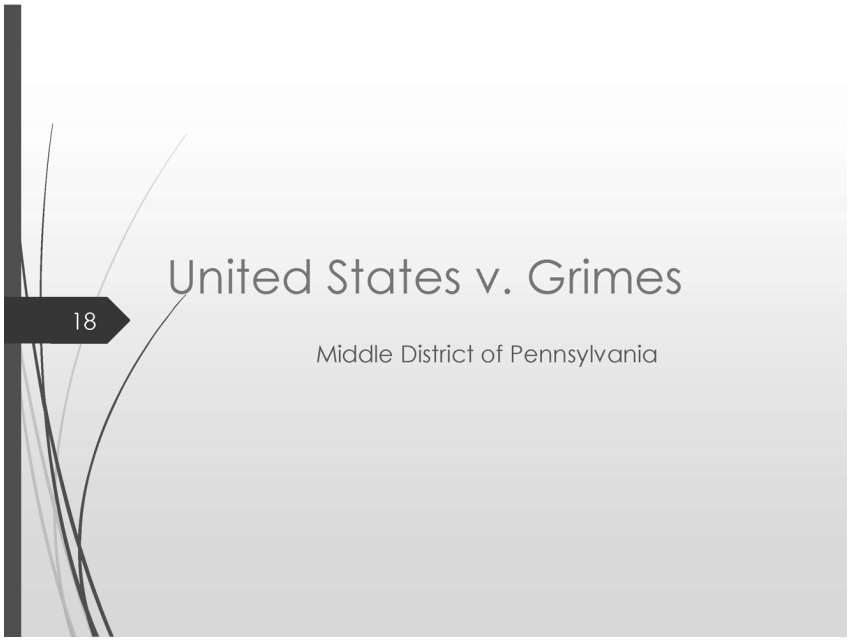


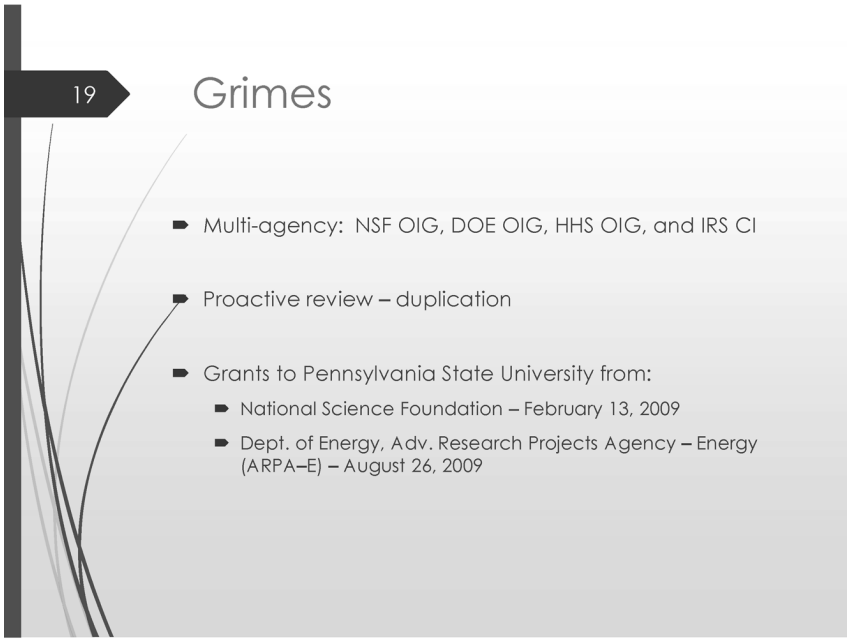
Dodd Camera and Video
Leaf Aptus 75 + accessories
$46,526

Epson Stylus Pro Printer
$10,852

Results

- Seven count indictment
  - 4 counts of Mail Fraud (18 USC § 1343)
    - University Checks sent out to pay vendors for cameras
  - 3 counts Theft (18 USC § 666)
- Guilty plea to one count of 18 U.S.C. § 666
  - Sentenced to 6-months home confinement
  - 18-months probation
  - Restitution
- 10-year debarment with credit for suspension period, until Feb. 28, 2021


18
United States v. Grimes
Middle District of Pennsylvania


19
Grimes
Multi-agency: NSF OIG, DOE OIG, HHS OIG, and IRS CI
Proactive review – duplication
Grants to Pennsylvania State University from:
National Science Foundation – February 13, 2009
Dept. of Energy, Adv. Research Projects Agency – Energy (ARPA–E) – August 26, 2009

20

ARPA-E Proposal

Other funding, from any source, which support the substance of proposed work.

None.

Has substance of this work been previously submitted to DOE

No.

Pending funding, any source, with any overlap to proposed work.

None.

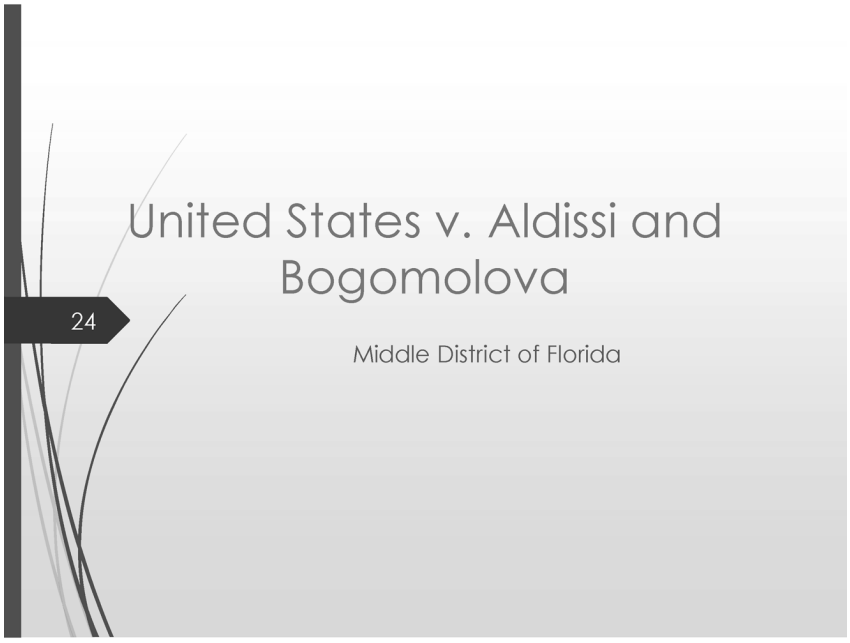
21

Grimes

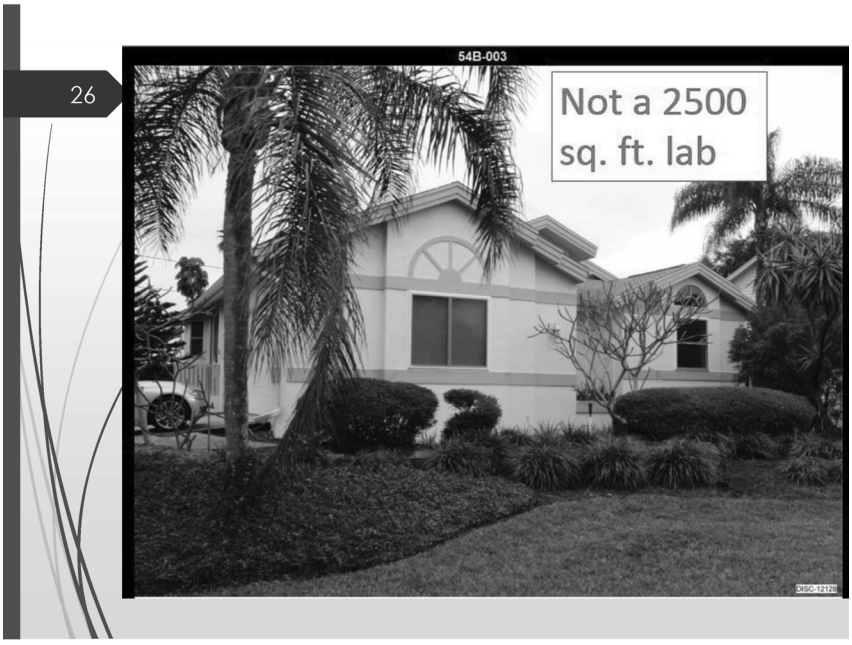
- Sentech / Sentech Biomed
  - Grimes and his wife's company
  - >$2 million in SBIR funding between 2002 – 2009
- NIH Phase II award
  - Proposal and reports indicated Hershey Medical Center would conduct clinical trials and receive ~$500,000

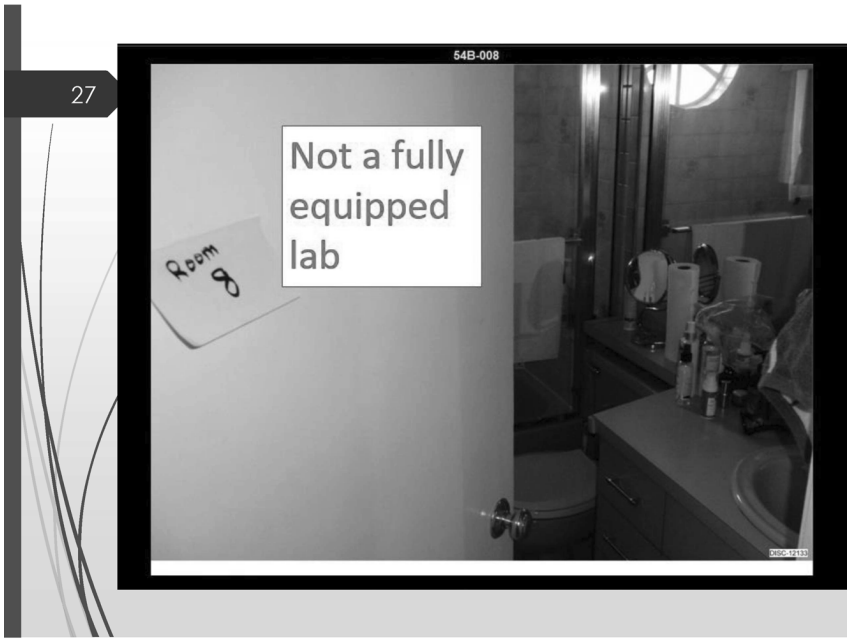

22
Grimes - Information
Wire Fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343)
NIH SBIR Phase II Progress Report
False Statements (18 U.S.C. § 1001)
ARPA–E proposal
Money Laundering (18 U.S.C. § 1957)
$24,000 business check deposited into personal bank account


23
Grimes - Outcome
Entered guilty plea February 21, 2012
10 year voluntary exclusion
Sentenced November 30, 2012:
41 months in prison
$640,660.37 in restitution

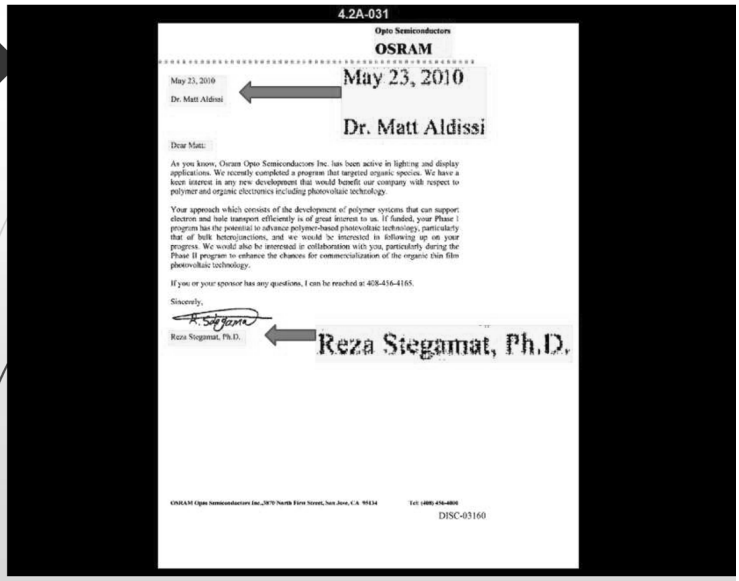

United States v. Aldissi and Bogomolova
24
Middle District of Florida


25
Aldissi
Multi-agency: NSF OIG, NASA OIG, DCIS, Army CID, EPA OIG, DOE OIG, DHS OIG, DOE OIG
Proactive review – facilities
Fraud in the inducement – Misrepresentations in proposals including:
Eligibility
Facilities
Endorsements / Subcontractors / Consultants

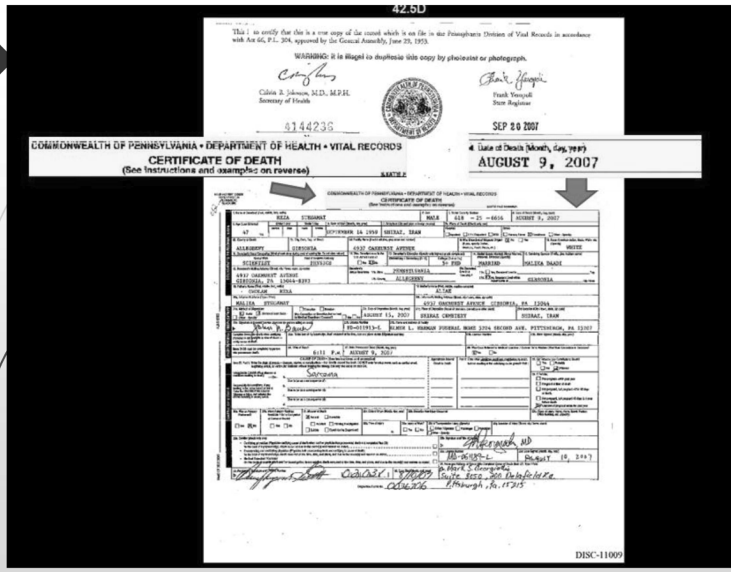

26
54B-003
Not a 2500 sq. ft. lab

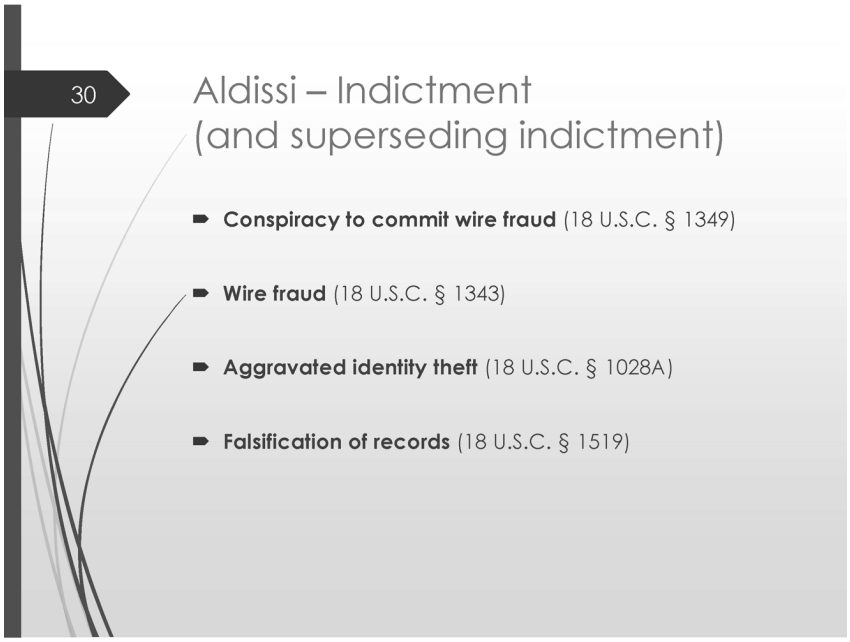

27
54B-008
Not a fully equipped lab
Room 8

28


4.2A-031
Opto Semiconductors
OSRAM
May 23, 2010
Dr. Matt Aldissi
May 23, 2010
Dr. Matt Aldissi
Dear Matt:
As you know, Osram Opto Semiconductors Inc. has been active in lighting and display applications. We recently completed a program that targeted organic species. We have a keen interest in any new development that would benefit our company with respect to polymer and organic electronics including photovoltaic technology.
Your approach which consists of the development of polymer systems that can support electron and hole transport efficiently is of great interest to us. If funded, your Phase I program has the potential to advance polymer-based photovoltaic technology, particularly that of bulk heterojunctions, and we would be interested in following up on your progress. We would also be interested in collaboration with you, particularly during the Phase II program to enhance the chances for commercialization of the organic thin film photovoltaic technology.
If you or your sponsor has any questions, I can be reached at 408-456-4165.
Sincerely,
Reza Stegamat, Ph.D.
Reza Stegamat, Ph.D.
OSRAM Opto Semiconductors Inc.,3070 North First Street, San Jose, CA 95134
Tel: (408) 456-4000
DISC-03160

29


42.5D
WARNING: It is illegal to duplicate this copy by photostat or photograph.
Calvin B. Johnson, M.D., M.P.H.
Secretary of Health
Frank Yanoschik
State Registrar
4144235
SEP 20 2007
COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA • DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH • VITAL RECORDS
CERTIFICATE OF DEATH
(See instructions and examples on reverse)
4. Date of Death (Month, Day, year)
AUGUST 9, 2007
DISC-11009


30
Aldissi – Indictment
(and superseding indictment)
Conspiracy to commit wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1349)
Wire fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343)
Aggravated identity theft (18 U.S.C. § 1028A)
Falsification of records (18 U.S.C. § 1519)


31
Aldissi – Trial & Outcome
TRIAL: 56 witnesses testified for the government:
SBIR program directors
Government program officers and COTRs
Proposal evaluators
Identity theft victims
Unindicted co-conspirator
Defenses:
Fixed price
Performance
CONVICTION: Both defendants found guilty on all counts
SENTENCING:
Aldissi – 15 years prison
Bogomolova – 13 years prison
Forfeiture money judgment: $10,654,969
Restitution: $10,654,969


32
United States v. Gamble
Northern District of Georgia


33
Gamble
NSF OIG, with assistance from FBI
State Audit – Purchase card misuse
Research Center Grants to Georgia Tech
Gamble worked as a Center Accountant
Identified in audit as having purchased a large volume from internet vendors

Computer files obtained by Georgia Tech Internal Audit

- GA Tech computer use policy resulted in obtaining key electronic evidence:
  - E-mails from Internet vendors shipping goods to the Gamble's home,
  - Copies of templates for various Internet vendor invoices, One template had been altered 64 times,
  - Pictures...



Tracking the Evidence

	DESCRIPTION	CHARGED	VENDOR
001	Security First JCS-552/27A 5 " Rear View Camera System	$249.99	Buy. COM
002	Draper 207010 4:3 Manual Wall Projection Screen	$151.14	Amazon. COM
003	RV Air Conditioner, Complete (13.5K / Cool Only / Non-Ducted) - Color - White	$518.99	Amazon. COM
004	RV Air Conditioner (15K - Heat/Cool) - Complete Assembly - Color - Ivory	$639.00	Amazon. COM
005	Carefree Fiesta 14' Vinyl Awnings - Color - Ocean Blue	$648.99	Amazon. COM
007	InFocus X2 Multimedia DLP Projector	$794.99	Amazon. COM
008	Igloo AUDIO CO AU College Audio Cooler - Auburn University	$83.94	Amazon. COM
009	Classic Check Oilcloth Table Cloth - Orange (48 x 108)	$30.00	Amazon. COM
010	4 - NCAA Auburn Tigers Orange Adult Chair	$183.45	Amazon. COM
011	4 - Byre of Maine Folding Table (16" x 16" x 16.5")	$161.97	Buy. COM
012	Auburn Tigers Tailgater Mat	$181.93	Amazon. COM
013	Coleman Road Trip Grill	$210.40	Amazon. COM
014	Auburn White Canopy by Logo Chair	$291.95	Amazon. COM
015	Auburn Color Canopy by Logo Chair	$311.95	Amazon. COM
016	NCAA Auburn Tigers logo XL 5 X 8 Tailgate Rug	$129.99	Amazon. COM
017	Auburn Tigers 11"x15" Garden Flag	$16.99	Amazon. COM
018	PAYPAL - Purchase (utility trailer)	$550.00	Pay Pal
020	Optronics TLL-56RK Waterproof LED Trailer Light Kit	$54.98	Buy. COM
021	NCAA Auburn Tigers 20" Double Level Ribbon Pinwheel - Team Sports America	$30.48	Amazon. COM



OIG & Internal Audit Found

- Over 3,800 personal purchases made from more than 15 different vendors over 5 years
- Over 1,900 transactions through the institution's financial system
- Over 30 different accounts (NSF/State/Private) fraudulently charged
- Over $316,000 fraudulently diverted

Concealment of Fraudulent Activities

- Majority of items shipped to home address
- Forged her supervisor's signature on P-Card statement review documents
- Created false invoices
- Manipulation of the institution's accounting system

Specific Items over $1000







Manipulation of accounting system

- Poulan Lawn Tractor - $1099 – transferred 3 times in 3 months
- HP Pavilion Notebook PC - $1023 – transferred 3 times in 4 months
- BUNN Ultra-2 Drink System - $2134 – transferred 3 times in 4 months
- Portable RV Refrigerator/Freezer - $1029 – transferred 5 times in 4 months

Fake Receipt

PayPal

My Account | Send Money | Request Money | Merchant Tools | Auction Tools

Overview | Add Funds | Withdraw | History | Resolution Center | Profile

Transaction Details

eBay Payment Sent (ID # 546546sd4f64e643df13se5)

Item #	Item Title	Qty	Price	Subtotal
6572837255	Bioengineering Books - Hardcover	1	$1300.00 USD	$1300.00 USD
	Shipping & Handling via UPS Next Day Air (includes any seller handling fees)			$.00 USD
	Shipping Insurance :			--
			Total:	$1300.00 USD

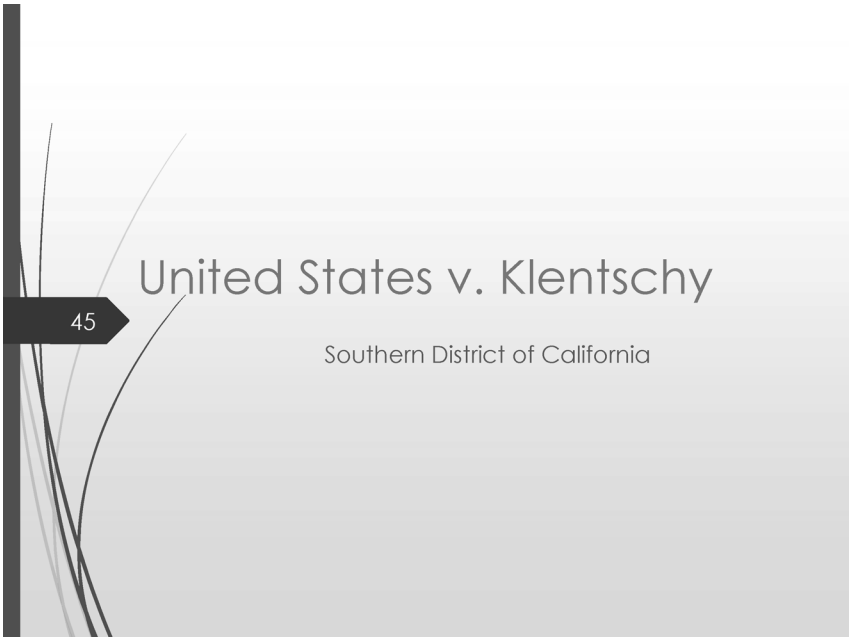
Total Amount: $1300.00 USD

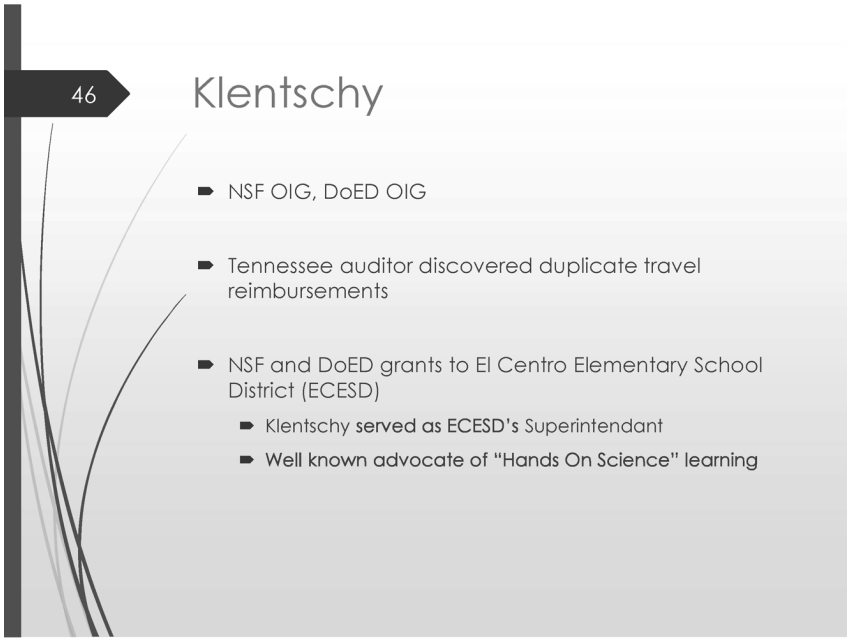
Date: 6/07/2006

Status: Completed




Results
22 count indictment
17 counts of Mail Fraud (18 U.S.C. § 1343)
5 counts of Theft (18 U.S.C. § 666)
Guilty plea to all counts
Sentenced 32 months prison/3 years probation
$316,000 restitution/$2200 fines-assessment
250 hours of community service
5 year debarment


United States v. Klentschy
45
Southern District of California


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Klentschy
NSF OIG, DoED OIG
Tennessee auditor discovered duplicate travel reimbursements
NSF and DoED grants to El Centro Elementary School District (ECESD)
Klentschy served as ECESD's Superintendant
Well known advocate of "Hands On Science" learning


Initial Investigative findings
Klentschy failed to disclose various outside activities & payments:
TSU payments for salary & travel related to CA research site from NSF grant
Travel, honoraria, consulting payments for speaking and outside education activities
SDSU payments from various grants & sub-awards from school district

Undisclosed Consulting and Duplicate Travel Payments

- 68 duplicate payments to the superintendant all charged to ECESD which duplicated TSU, and 26 other institutions
- 11 duplicate payments to his Science Center staff, all cash returned him
- $60,000 in duplicate travel payments
- $70,000 in consulting/speaking fees

04/29/07 to 05/01/07- Raleigh, NC

Provided to ECESD

RR 571478460 #01
MICHAEL
KLENTSCHY

VEHICLE: 01492/3613155
07NAVS LIC: NC VVP1454
FUEL: 8/8 OUT 8/8 IN
CDP: 195328-ELCENTRO SCHOOL DISTRICT
FF: COBA328588
RES: DS893262216 /0501A / F
COMPLETED BY: 3063 /NCRAL11
RENTED: RALEIGH-DURHAM A/P
RENTAL: 04/29/07 17:18
RETURN: 05/01/07 14:58

PLAN IN: 0501A RATE CLASS: F
PLAN OUT: 0501A

MILES IN: 8564 TR-X MILES
MILES OUT: 8427 MILES ALLOWED
MILES DRIVEN: 137 MILES CHARGED

DAYS	2@$ 70.75 / DAY	$	141.50
SUBTOTAL 1		$	141.50
DISCOUNT -	R 20%	$	28.30
SUBTOTAL 2		T$	113.20
CONCESSION FEE RECOVERY		T$	11.32
FF SURCHARGE		T$	1.00
LDW	DECLINED		
LIS	DECLINED		
PAI, PEC	DECLINED		
TAX 14.500% ON	125.52	$	18.20
NET DUE		$	143.72
PAID BY	VISA XXXXXXXXXXXX1010		

FF: CO BA328588 - 100 MILES
AWARDED

Provided to TSU

571478460 #02
CHAEL
ENTSCHY

CLE: 01492/3613155
/S LIC: NC VVP1454
8/8 OUT 8/8 IN
195328-ELCENTRO SCHOOL DISTRICT
OBA328588
DS893262216 /0501A / F
ETED BY: 3063 /NCRAL11
D: RALEIGH-DURHAM A/P
L: 04/29/07 17:18
N: 05/01/07 14:58

IN: 0501A RATE CLASS: F
OUT: 0501A

IN: 8564 TR-X MILES
OUT: 8427 MILES ALLOWED
DRIVEN: 137 MILES CHARGED

	2@$ 70.75 / DAY	$	141.50
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SSION FEE RECOVERY		T$	11.32
RCHARGE		T$	1.00
	DECLINED		
	DECLINED		
EC	DECLINED		
.500% ON	125.52	$	18.20
JE		$	143.72
BY	VISA XXXXXXXXXXXX1010		

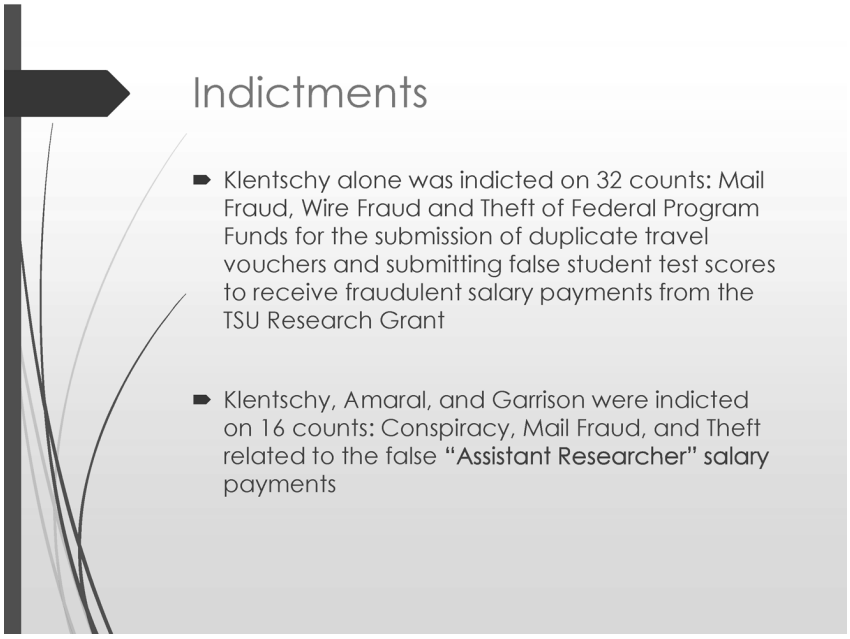
BA328588 - 100 MILES
D

Klentschy's Conspiracy with SDSU IVC Personnel

- Initiated DoED grant payments to an educational consulting company totaling $395,000
- Company was owned by SDSU IVC Assistant Dean Olga Amaral, and involved another Professor, Leslie Garrison
- Amaral and Garrison performed external evaluation receiving $152,250 each
- Klentschy was paid $90,000 by Amaral through the company as **"Assistant Researcher"**
- Company invoices, approved by Klentschy as PI on DoED Grant, stated that the $90,000 was paid to an unnamed Assistant Researcher

Data Submitted to TSU Under the Research Grant

- Between 2006 and 2008, $2,095,596 was expended by TSU on the NSF Research Grant.
- In 2006, Klentschy, as the CA Site Director, provided to TSU 2004-2005 student data.
- In April 2007, student data was published claiming that **Klentschy's** special Hands-on-Science method produced the highest gains in state student test scores, above the state proficiency level.
- Klentschy had altered or fabricated 75% of the test score data


Indictments
Klentschy alone was indicted on 32 counts: Mail Fraud, Wire Fraud and Theft of Federal Program Funds for the submission of duplicate travel vouchers and submitting false student test scores to receive fraudulent salary payments from the TSU Research Grant
Klentschy, Amaral, and Garrison were indicted on 16 counts: Conspiracy, Mail Fraud, and Theft related to the false "Assistant Researcher" salary payments


Convictions and Sentencing
Klentschy pled guilty to two counts of Mail Fraud
Sentenced to 10 months imprisonment, 3 years supervised release, and ordered to pay $325,000 in restitution.
Amaral and Garrison pled guilty to submitting False Statements
Sentenced to 5 years probation


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To Learn More About Criminal Grant Fraud cases:
Financial Fraud Enforcement Task Force's Grant Fraud Working Group:
Lead by DOJ Inspector General Michael Horowitz
AUSA Grant Fraud POC List
NSF OIG Grant Fraud Case Digest
Case Summaries
Links to all key case documents: Indictments, Plea Agreements, Press Releases
Names of the AUSAs who prosecuted the cases
NSF OIG CD of Proactive Materials


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FRAUD AND WASTE IN THE SBIR/STTR PROGRAM
May 6, 2014

Michael Pritchard, Special Agent, NSF OIG
Fara Damelin, Investigative Attorney, NSF OIG

SBIR/STTR FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

- Background & Purpose of SBIR/STTR Programs
- Eligibility Requirements
- Relationship with Universities
- Common Types of Abuse
  - Facilities
  - Primary Employment
  - Overlapping/Duplicative funding
  - Subcontracts
- Investigative Outcomes
  - Indictments for false statements/false claims/theft of federal program funds/mail fraud/wire fraud
  - Civil Complaints, False Claims Act
  - Government-wide suspension and debarment

Program Background

- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
  - Enacted in 1982, as part of the Small Business Innovation Development Act
  - 2.5% of research budgets of agencies with extramural R&D budgets over $100M
- Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
  - Established by the Small Business Technology Transfer Act of 1992
  - 0.3% of research budgets of agencies with extramural R&D budgets over $1B

Program Goals

- **Develop intellectual capital** – Make awards for research that build upon recent discoveries in basic sciences and engineering and provides opportunities for individuals who have, or are working toward, advanced scientific, engineering, or education degrees.
- **Strengthen the physical infrastructure** – Make awards that lead to development of new scientific, engineering, and education capability through commercialization of advanced instruments, new processes, and innovative software, etc.
- **Integrate research and education** – Encourage awardees to disseminate research findings through scholarly journals and professional meetings.
- **Promote partnerships** – Encourage awardees to engage in cooperative activities involving industry, government (state, local, Federal), and academia.

(www.nsf.gov)

Participating Agencies

SBIR:

1. USDA (G)
2. Commerce (C)
3. DOD (C)
4. Education (C/G)
5. Energy (G)
6. DHS (C)
7. HHS (C/G)
8. Transportation (C)
9. EPA (C)
10. NASA (C)
11. NSF (G)

STTR:

1. DOD (C)
2. Energy (G)
3. HHS (C/G)
4. NASA (C)
5. NSF (G)

SBIR/STTR Award Structure

- 3 Phases – Companies **must** have a successful Phase 1 to receive a Phase 2 award!
- Phase 1:
  - Feasibility Study
  - 6 months
  - Up to150K
    - Phase IB: Matching program requiring outside investment
- Phase 2:
  - Expansion/ Development
  - 2 years
  - $300K-$1M
    - Phase IIB: Matching program requiring outside investment
- Phase 3:
  - Commercialization
  - Private or Non-SBIR Federal funding

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. small business as defined by SBA
  - Principal place of business is in the U.S.
  - At least 51% U.S. owned
  - Maximum 500 employees
- Cannot receive funding for duplicate work (disclosure of related overlapping work is required)

MORE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Work performed by the Company:
  - Phase 1 – SBIR minimum 2/3 research done by company; STTR at least 40% company, 30% partner
  - Phase 2 – SBIR minimum 1/2 research done by company; STTR at least 40% company, 30% partner
- Amount of Effort by Principal Investigator
  - Generally, one month per 6 months of award period
- Primary employment of Principal Investigator (PI) is with the company
  - Means that separate and distinct from required months of effort by PI, the PI must ALSO work at least 51% time with the small business
    - Cannot be PI for SBIR/STTR and work full-time or even 50% for a University or other employer

MORE ABOUT STTR AWARDS

- Goal of this program is to support collaboration between a small business and a collaborating research institution
- 30% of the STTR budgets (all phases) are required to go to the collaborating research institution
- STTR awards would not be made but for this budgeted collaboration

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LIFE CYCLE CERTIFICATIONS

- These eligibility requirements are not merely technicalities.
  - If you do not meet these requirements, you are not eligible for the award.
  - False Statements and omissions that affirm that you meet one or more criteria when you do not, constitute criminal violations.
- Certifications serve as the basis for many of the SBIR/STTR investigations conducted by OIGs.
- SBIR/STTR grantees must certify that these eligibility requirements multiple times.
  - Companies self-certify that they meet the program eligibility requirements and that they completed work as proposed while following all the rules
  - In proposals, requests for payments, interim and final project reports

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MORE ABOUT CERTIFICATIONS

- Know your agency's certification language
  - Certification language differs slightly across agencies, but standardized language is currently being developed
- Certifications expressly notify the certifier that provision of false information is a violation of criminal law
  - "I certify that to the best of my knowledge…the statements herein are true and complete…I understand that the willful provision of false information or concealing a material fact in this report or in any other communication submitted to NSF is a criminal offense (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).
    - Not just in proposals and reports, but also in emails communicating with NSF program and financial personnel.

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AGENCY SPECIFIC REQUIREMENTS

- Agencies can make **more specific** requirements on SBIR/STTR research, mandating that all research pertaining to an award be conducted in the **United States**
- Know your award documents
  - Award Letter, Solicitation, Grant Condition
- Coordinate with program office to determine your agency's specific regulations
  - E.G., No funds can be used for sales and marketing
  - Pre-award costs

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Agency Specific Controls to Prevent Fraud (or make it easier to prosecute).

- NSF provides mandatory paid training regarding these requirements.
  - Grantees are expected to read and know the provisions of the applicable grant conditions cited in SBIR/STTR award letter.
- NSF requires financial capability reviews prior to issuance of Phase II SBIR and STTR awards.

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Value Of Mandatory Training

- SBIR Grantees Conference
  - Puts Grantees On Notice Of Program Requirements
  - Demonstrates Knowledge
- Notifies Grantee Of Eligibility Criteria
  - Importance Of Certifications
  - Consequences Of Not Following The Rules
- Funded By NSF
  - Mandatory Part Of Phase I Budget

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SBIR/STTR Fraud Indicators

- Duplicate proposals/awards from same or multiple agencies for same work
- Fraud in inducement of awards – e.g. fake investment
- Exaggerating capabilities
- Disallowed subcontracting
- Misuse or diversion of funds
- Proposed vs. actual work
- Plagiarism
- Geographical improbabilities
- Suspicious PI or company presidents
- Sham websites, e-mails
- No real U.S. presence
- Front companies
- Employee Misconduct

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Are foreign-based firms eligible for SBIR awards?

- To be eligible for award of SBIR funding agreements, a small business concern has to meet the following qualifications:
  - be independently owned and operated principal place of business is located in the United States at least 51 percent owned or in the case of a publicly owned business, at least 51% of its voting stock is owned by United States citizens or lawfully admitted permanent resident aliens.

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It's All in the Family And Other Conflicts of Interest

- Subawards To Entities For Which They Have A Conflict
  - To themselves at a university
  - To a company that they own, or owned by family members
- SBIR/STTR Grantees who pay family members without disclosing payments to agency
  - Spouse or minor child with different last name

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Proactive Investigations

- Proactive investigative reviews generate more cases than complaints in this arena
- Identify a problem and see if there is a pattern
  - Businesses located at home
  - Facilities do not exist
  - Primary employment violations
  - Fake Investments
  - Overlapping funding

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Frequently Used Statutes

- False Statements (18 U.S.C. 1001)
- False Claims (18 U.S.C. 287)
- Civil False Claims (31 U.S.C. 3729)
- Embezzlement or Conversion (18 U.S.C. 641)
- Mail Fraud (18 U.S.C. 1341)
- Wire Fraud (18 U.S.C. 1343)
- Export Violations

ADMINISTRATIVE TOOLS TO PROTECT FEDERAL FUNDS

- Government-wide suspension and debarment
  - Can make this recommendation while matter is in referral to DOJ
  - Always Coordinate with USAO
  - Distinctions between suspensions and debarments
- Suspension or termination of existing grants or contracts
  - To protect current/existing award funds not protected by Govt. Wide Suspension and Debarment

RECENT CASES –

- SBIR/STTR Grantees Indicted
  - For falsely certifying primary employment
  - For Diverting grant funds
  - Fake Investments
  - Obstruction
- PIs and Small Companies suspended government-wide pending SBIR/STTR fraud investigations
  - For lying about primary employment – PI had university appointment; 50% and up breaks the rules!
  - For lying about outside investment funds – False representations made to NSF to obtain supplemental Phase IB funding.
  - For lying about overlapping funding
  - For providing false information about time and effort expended on Phase II award – NSF requires and reviews milestone charts on project reports and relies on representations in those milestone charts before releasing funding, so they must contain accurate information.
  - For misuse of NSF award funds – Paying your mortgage or transferring large portions of award funds directly to your personal account is not OK.

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WANT TO LEARN MORE ?

- GAO Reports
- OIG Reports
- Semiannual Reports
- Outreach Presentations
- SBIR National Conference
- NSF Grantees Conference

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QUESTIONS



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Mail: NSF—ATTN: OIG HOTLINE
4201 Wilson Boulevard; II-705
Arlington, VA. 22230

Anonymous Communications: Hotline:1-800-428-2189
www.nsf.gov click on IG Hotline

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Legal Tools and Requirements Cooperation and Coordination of Remedies

IG Criminal Investigator Academy
CGFTP
December 7, 2017

Course Instructor
Fara Damelin, NSF OIG

1

Civil, Criminal & Administrative Remedies

- Overview
- Parallel Proceedings
- Investigative Tools

2

Key Take Away Points

- Consider Multiple Avenues for Every Investigation
  - If we do this right, our substantiated fraud cases can and should result in:
    - Criminal conviction and sentence
    - Civil restitution and triple damages
    - Termination of active contracts and grants
    - Fact-Based Govt. wide suspension to prevent future awards during the investigation
    - Govt. wide debarment

3

Key Take Away Points

- Coordinate
  - With your agency, other OIGs, DOJ, Other LE and State Entities
- Communicate
  - Who to call?
  - For what documents and information?
  - No need to recreate the wheel
    - Go-bys
- Share Lessons Learned and Best Practices

4

Practical Reality
It's all about the People

- We make or break our cases when we pick up the phone to call DOJ
  - Check out the AUSA POC List
- No matter what the policies are, the key is educating and selling ideas to people who make the decisions



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Practical Reality
It's all about the People

- Outreach and collaboration are key
  - S&D officials
  - DOJ Criminal and Civil
  - Agency OGC
  - Interagency Working Groups/multiagency investigations
  - What can other agencies do for your investigations?



6

Oversight.gov

- Check it out!
- Another source of IG information in one location
- Good for proactive initiatives
- Search functions
  - State
  - Year
  - OIG
  - Keyword

7

Parallel Proceedings

Civil, administrative, and criminal enforcement for same or related conduct *at the same time*

8

Parallel Proceedings

- Consider multiple avenues for every case
  - Criminal Referral to DOJ
  - Civil Referral to DOJ
  - Recommendation for Govt. Wide Suspension/Debarment



Parallel Proceedings

- Consider multiple avenues for every case
  - Recommendation for administrative action
    - Suspension/Termination of Grant
    - Stop Work Order on Contract
    - IPERA Recovery
    - Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act
    - HHS: Other Administrative Remedies



AG Holder Memo

- Prosecutors, Civil, Agency Attorneys must Communicate and Cooperate, ***early and often***
- Proceed in a manner that allows information to be shared to the fullest extent
- Consider impact on other proceedings at ***every*** stage:
  - "From the moment" of intake, a case referral from any source is a referral for all purposes
  - During investigations, plan for grand jury and discovery issues

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Parallel Proceedings

- Why Parallel Proceedings?
  - **To protect current and future federal funds**
  - Attorney General Holder Memo (Jan. 30, 2012) -- Criminal, civil sections to communicate, coordinate and cooperate, early and often
  - CIGIE Quality Standards for Investigations: Due Professional Care – **Thoroughness, p. 7 "All investigations must be** conducted in a diligent and complete manner, and reasonable steps should be taken to ensure pertinent issues are sufficiently resolved and to ensure that all appropriate criminal, civil, **contractual, or administrative remedies are considered."**
  - Ability to use information obtained from civil/administrative investigations freely between both civil and criminal cases
  - Encourages quicker resolution to avoid defending multiple government actions

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Yates Memo, September 2015

- Deputy Attorney General addresses Individual accountability for corporate wrongdoing

- Has anybody seen "The Big Short"?

Yates Memo, September 2015

- Six key steps to strengthen pursuit of individual corporate wrongdoing, including:
  - Focus criminal and civil investigations on individual wrongdoings from inception
  - Criminal and Civil AUSAs should coordinate and communicate
  - Don't give individuals a pass when settling with corporation
  - Individual cases should be addressed
  - Civil attorneys should also focus on individuals, based upon considerations beyond ability to pay

Parallel Proceedings

Challenges

- Requires good, clear, and regular communication
- Do not misuse administrative proceedings solely to advance criminal case
- Be clear with target if investigation is criminal; give appropriate warnings; follow your agency policies

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EXAMPLE 1

- Criminal trial results in felony convictions on false claims/wire fraud, BUT at sentencing, judge does not order sufficient restitution or find in favor of government on loss amount
  - Refer matter under Civil FCA
  - Summary judgment
  - Double or triple damages assessed plus penalties

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EXAMPLE 2

- Criminal referral results in pre-trial diversion, and ½ money back
  - Refer matter under Civil FCA
  - Consider government wide suspension/debarment
  - Other administrative ways to seek recovery?

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CHECKLIST: CONSIDER ALL OPTIONS

- Subpoenas (IG….RFPA…GJ)
- Interviews (Preferably Recorded)
- Mail Covers
- Trash Runs
- Preservation Requests and Warrants
  - Email and physical locations
- Referrals:
  - DOJ: Criminal/Civil – CIDs., Search/Seizure Warrants
  - Suspension/debarment
  - PFCRA
  - Other Administrative Actions

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Investigative Tools

IG Administrative Subpoenas

Section 6(a)(4) of the IG Act

Investigative Tools

Why Use IG Administrative Subpoenas?

- May use as many as you need for IG audits, inspections, civil, criminal, and administrative investigations
- Information obtained via IG subpoena may be used for criminal, civil, and administrative enforcement actions. No grand jury secrecy rules!
  - Also no gag order authority

Investigative Tools

- What types of documents can you obtain?
  - Corporate Records
  - Financial Records
    - Electronic accounting data (QB Files/Passwords)
  - Business Tax Returns
  - Wage Withholding Reports
  - Employment Records
  - Contracts/Subcontracts
  - Payroll Records
  - Business Bank Records (But Beware!)
  - State Department of Labor Records (Some OIGs obtain these via written requests)

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Investigative Tools

Limitations of IG Subpoenas

- Cannot subpoena another federal agency
  - Own agency: IG Act, section 4
  - Other agencies: (b)(7) letter
- Enforcement requires a separate court proceeding
- Difficult to keep investigation covert (NOT ALWAYS)
- Cannot compel testimony (Even with IGEA)
- Cannot compel creation of documents
  - **But sometimes folks create documents on their own…**
  - **And sometimes they even falsify and backdate them…leading to obstruction charges**

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Investigative Tools

IG Subpoena Enforcement

- OIG subpoenas are given much deference, so long as (1) issued for inquiry within OIG authority; (2) reasonably relevant to inquiry; and (3) not unduly burdensome
- DOJ will enforce, with assistance from your OIG Counsel (the earlier the notice to counsel, the better)

Investigative Tools

Other Statutes Affecting IG Subpoenas and Access to Records

Investigative Tools: Practical Considerations

- Some entities challenge IG subpoenas for email records, even those with private servers
- Some USAOs don't want to take any chances
  - Require warrants even if technically not required
  - "Tape it up and send it back!"
  - Err on side of a warrant
- Preservation Requests
  - Easy and no notice requirements
  - 90-day increments
    - Some will challenge more than one extension

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Investigative Tools

Other Statutes Affecting IG Subpoenas

Right to Financial Privacy Act (RFPA) 12 U.S.C. §§ 3401-3421

- No government authority may access or obtain info contained in the financial records of any customer from a financial institution without first obtaining one of the following mechanisms:
  - Customer authorization
  - Administrative subpoena
  - Search Warrant
  - Judicial Subpoena
  - Formal written request

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Investigative Tools

Other Statutes Affecting IG Subpoenas
RFPA Applicability

- Financial Institution
  - Any office of a bank, thrift, credit union, or credit card issuer (not credit bureaus or pawnshops) (see USAM)
- Where subject is a Customer
  - individual customer; or
  - a partnership of five or fewer individuals (corporations are not covered)
  - a non-**customer target IS NOT a "customer" (see USAM)**
- Financial Records
  - Bank records
  - Credit records
  - Loans

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Investigative Tools

Other Statutes Affecting IG Subpoenas
RFPA Exceptions – §§ 3413-14

- **RFPA Restrictions do not apply if:**
  - Grand jury subpoena
  - Emergency access
  - Basic account identifying information

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Investigative Tools

- Records CAN be successfully obtained using the RFPA!
  - If you follow the rules/notice requirements, you can obtain personal bank and credit card records
  - Go-bys
  - Few challenges, so why not ask?

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Investigative Tools

CIVIL INVESTIGATIVE DEMAND (CID)

Similar to a Subpoena: Used when the Attorney General believes that someone may be in possession, custody, or control of documents or information relevant to certain civil investigations

CIDs are an important power that goes beyond just getting documents!

- IG subpoenas can't demand testimony or the creation of new documents (so no lists, summaries, etc.)
  - A CID can demand answers to DOJ's interrogatories
  - The target can respond via oral testimony (but can refuse to answer questions under 5th amendment.)
- Can be enforced by appropriate district court
- Like a super-subpoena, but can only be used in civil cases

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Civil & Administrative Remedies

- Civil Fraud Cases: Qui Tam & FERA update
- Common Law Civil Claims
- Government-Wide Suspensions and Debarments
- Suspension and Termination of Existing Awards
- Suspension/termination of grants/stop work orders

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Civil & Administrative Remedies

False Claims Act

31 U.S.C. § 3729 – 3733

- The civil False Claims Act establishes liability for false claims **in addition to, or instead of**, resorting to criminal sanctions
- Through such actions, the Government can recover assets lost through fraud
- Knowingly submitting a false claim to the Government can make an individual or company liable to the Government, **both criminally and civilly**
  - (a) actual knowledge of the falsity,
  - (b) acts in deliberate ignorance of the truth or falsity, or
  - (c) acts in reckless disregard of it

Note: no specific intent required!



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Civil & Administrative Remedies

False Claims Act

31 U.S.C. § 3729 – 3733

- *U.S. ex rel. Escobar v. Universal Health Services, Inc.* , June 2016
- Implied Certifications: Affirmed FCA case based upon implied certifications if certain conditions apply
  - Submission of invoice and failure to disclose non-compliance with a material provision of the agreement/bargain
- Materiality
  - whether the violation has the "natural tendency" to influence, or is capable of influencing, the payment or receipt of money or property.
- Government's administrative response important to question of materiality

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Materiality – Summary

Factors:

- Does Gov't identify requirement as condition of payment (relevant but not dispositive)?
- Does violation goes to the "essence of the bargain" (i.e., would a reasonable man attach importance)?;
- Was violation important/pervasive or minor/limited?
- What were Gov't actions after learning of the violation?
- Did the defendant know or have reason to know that the Gov't would consider it to be important? For example, had the defendant been notified of importance? Did the defendant try to conceal the violation?

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Civil & Administrative Remedies

False Claims Act

31 U.S.C. § 3729 – 3733

- **What is "Reckless Disregard"?**
  - Legislative history: persons making claims for payment to the **Government must make "at least some inquiry," to be** reasonably certain they are entitled to be paid
    - Due Diligence: quality controls in place, review of underlying documents/ internal procedures, training personnel involved in submitting claims or submissions
  - **Inquiry can be limited, but should be "reasonable and prudent under the circumstances"**
  - Mere negligence probably not enough:
    - Reckless disregard may be considered the equivalent of aggravated form of gross negligence, or gross negligence-**plus**"
    - **"A defendant's good faith interpretation of a regulation does not give rise to liability"**

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Civil & Administrative Remedies

False Claims Act

31 U.S.C. § 3729 – 3733

- Mandatory Treble damages (3x damages)
- Penalties per claim recently increased for inflation to between $10,781 and $21,563
- Long Statute of Limitation:
  - Six years after false claim or
  - **Three years from the "date when facts material to the right** of action are known or reasonably should have been known by official of the United States charged with responsibility to **act in the circumstances**" – not to exceed 10 years

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Examples

- Public Broadcasting Company that comingles federal and non-federal funds and cannot tell you how the federal funds are expended
- Small business that fails to keep mandated timekeeping and other records, and reports out expenditures with no source documentations to support
- University that expends scholarship funds on unallowable expenditures or can't support financial reports

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Civil & Administrative Remedies

- *qui tam pro domino rege quam pro se ipso in hac parte sequitur*

  "[he] who sues in this matter for the king as well as for himself."
- The Act may be enforced by the federal government OR private plaintiffs: qui tam relators
- Who can be a relator?
  - "Original source"/Public disclosure bar 31 U.S.C. § 3730(e)(4)

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Civil & Administrative Remedies
False Claims Act
Qui Tam Actions: 31 U.S.C. § 3730

- Qui Tam Investigation:
  - Filed under seal and the government is given 60 days to investigate the relator's claims. (extensions granted)
  - The relator is required to file a written disclosure of substantially all material evidence
  - The relator must also voluntarily disclose his or her allegations to the government before filing suit.

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Civil & Administrative Remedies
False Claims Act (FCA):
Qui Tam Actions: 31 U.S.C. § 3730

After Qui Tam Investigation

- Based on investigation, DOJ will decide whether to:
  - Intervene (take over the case and litigate)
  - decline to intervene; relator can proceed with qui tam action (Government can opt to intervene later)
  - dismiss qui tam action
- Relators share: can receive all or part of any penalty imposed; at minimum 15-30% of proceeds of case

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Civil & Administrative Remedies
Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act
31 U.S.C. §§ 3801-3812

- Permits agencies to administratively pursue false claims and false statements valued up to $150,000 per claim
- Modeled on the FCA - PFCRA does not create new violations
- Administrative penalties appx. $10,781 (recently adjusted for inflation) for each false claim or statement (See agency specific regulations); Damages may be assessed at 2x amount of provable loss
- Dollar recoveries collected from PFCRA cases are returned to the General Fund of the U.S. Treasury
- The PFCRA process codified in Agency's regulations

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Civil & Administrative Remedies
Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act
(PFCRA) (the "mini" False Claims Act)

General Process

- **Investigating Official** - OIG initiates investigations of false claims or allegations
- **Reviewing Official** - Generally, the agency General Counsel reviews the OIG's findings and forwards the case to DOJ for approval
- **DOJ -** must approve
- **Presiding Official** - A PFCRA-authorized presiding official authorized (usually an ALJ) presides over the hearing and decides the outcome case and the penalty and/or assessment imposed.

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Civil & Administrative Remedies

Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act
(PFCRA) (the "mini" False Claims Act)

- When to Consider PFCRA?
  - False claims with value under $150,000
    - Inflated employee travel claims
    - Time and attendance fraud
    - Travel card, procurement card fraud
    - Small Business Fraud
- CIGIE Resources
  - Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act Working Group: "Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act Practitioner's Guide." Approved Nov. 19, 2013. Available business side of IGNET.

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Civil & Administrative Remedies

Suspension and Debarment

- A Federal agency uses suspension and debarment to exclude from Federal programs persons who are not "presently responsible"
  - Procurement contracts – goods and services (FAR Subpart 9.4)
  - Non-procurement transactions – grants, loans, scholarships, and other "non-procurement transactions" (2 CFR Part 180)

- Protect taxpayer dollars against fraud, waste, abuse, & poor performance
- Promote socio-economic policies

NOT:
- Punishment
- To coerce guilty pleas and civil settlements
- To embarrass or harass

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Civil & Administrative Remedies Suspension and Debarment

	Suspension	• Debarment
Duration	• Temporary measure • Generally one year, but up to 18 months	• Generally three years • 5 to 10 in appropriate circumstances
Grounds	• when immediate action is needed to protect the Government's interest • filing of a FCA complaint • upon ***adequate evidence*** that any of the causes for debarment have been triggered	• conviction or civil judgment for certain offenses • Serious violations of the terms of a public agreement • Certain eligibility issues • Anything so serious it affects present responsibility
Standard	• Adequate evidence	• Preponderance of evidence

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Civil & Administrative Remedies Suspension and Debarment:

- For more information:
  - "Don't Let the Toolbox Rust: Observations on Suspension and Debarment, Debunking Myths, and Suggested Practices for Offices of Inspectors General" (Suspension and Debarment Working Group, September 20, 2011, and Update, November 19, 2013)
  - http://www.ignet.gov/pande/inv1.html#reports
  - November 18, 2016 S&D Workshop

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Examples

- Post indictment/criminal complaint government wide suspension
- Fact-based government wide suspension
  - Civil and criminal cases
  - Enough information to present "adequate evidence" that cause for debarment exists
- Conviction based debarment
- Fact-Based Debarment

Case studies

University Fraud Case Overview

- Indiana university referred the case after having caught the fraud and conducted its own investigation and interviews
- Allegations: University tenured professor bought very nice cameras with federal grant money and shipped them to his home in NY
- Two NSF Grants implicated, plus university cost share
  - Intent of one award was to fund engineering equipment
  - Total equipment budgets of $286,000

49

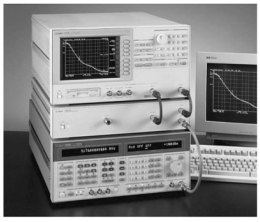
Administrative Action

- Tenured professor terminated
- Started a new small business
- Sought funding from…..
- Fact-Based Government Wide Suspension

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Engineering equipment?

Agilent
Technologies
Signal Analyzer
$67,970



Dodd Camera and Video
Sinar P3 Camera +
accessories
$44,346



Dotworkz
Axis Network camera
$2,604







Dodd Camera and Video
Leaf Aptus 75 +
accessories
$46,526

Epson Stylus Pro Printer
$10,852

Criminal Disposition

- Seven count indictment
  - 4 counts of Mail Fraud (18 USC § 1343)
    - University Checks sent out to pay vendors for cameras
  - 3 counts Theft (18 USC § 666)
- Guilty plea to one count of 18 U.S.C. § 666
  - Sentenced to 6-months home confinement
  - 18-months probation
  - Restitution
- 10-year debarment with credit for suspension period, until Feb. 28, 2021

Small Business Fraud Case

- Proactive review of small business awards based upon the undisclosed use of home/residential address as business address
- 2 NSF awards issued and one was declined based upon financial concerns of preaward audit
- PI of small business had full time job at a university, per public records
- One of the awards was contingent on outside investment of $100,000, but the money never appeared in bank account accordi preaward audit



ATRC's Phase I Project Description

have published numerous peer-reviewed papers in highway alignment and design optimization, including two books entitled "Intelligent Road Design" and "Fundamentals of Road Design." Dr. Jha is the President and Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of ATRC, Inc. and also Associate Professor of Civil Engineering at the Morgan State University. Prior to joining Morgan State University, Dr. Jha worked for over seven years at the Maryland State Highway Administration (MSHA), most of which was spent in the highway design division. In order to carry out the project in an efficient manner an ambitious 8 member team with three senior personnel is formed (see, Fig. 5). The team members are who's who in their respective fields. Figure 6 shows the project milestones, including role of the team members. **Dr. Jha will get release time or negotiate other leave options (such as sabbatical leave) with the university to spend time at ATRC, to complete the project. It will be ensured that all NSF funding requirements are met to spend appropriate time on the project for the successful development of the product. Please see his Chair, Dr. Reginald Amory's letter affirming this in the attachments.**

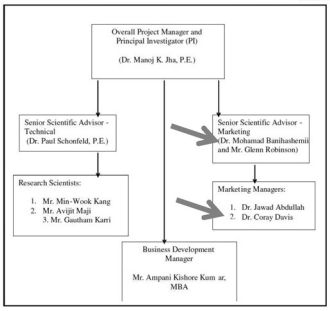


Figure 5. Team Members and their Roles

ATRC Phase IB Emails

From: Manoj K. Jha <mkjhall@gmail.com> Sent: Mon 12/01/2008 12:53 PM
To: Arkilic, Errol B.
Cc: Bennett, Ian M.
Subject: RE: Request for more information re NSF 0903284
Message check1_kminfo.pdf check2_kminfo.pdf

Errol,

Attached please find two checks totaling $100,000 which was paid to Amar Transportation by KM InfoTech. Thank you.

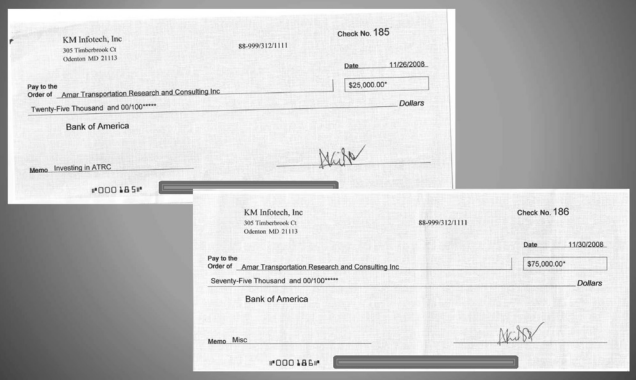
Manoj

From: Arkilic, Errol B. [mailto:earkilic@nsf.gov]
Sent: Sunday, November 16, 2008 8:22 PM
To: Manoj K. Jha
Cc: Bennett, Ian M.
Subject: RE: Request for more information re NSF 0903284

Okay, give me an update next week.
Best,
Errol

Errol Arkilic, Ph.D.
Program Manager
Division of Industrial Innovation and Partnerships
National Science Foundation
4201 Wilson Boulevard
Arlington, Virginia
22230

Phase IB Emailed Checks



KM Infotech, Inc
305 Timberbrook Ct
Odenton MD 21113

88-999/312/1111

Check No. 185

Date 11/26/2008

Pay to the Order of Amar Transportation Research and Consulting Inc $25,000.00*

Twenty-Five Thousand and 00/100***** Dollars

Bank of America

Memo Investing in ATRC

KM Infotech, Inc
305 Timberbrook Ct
Odenton MD 21113

88-999/312/1111

Check No. 186

Date 11/30/2008

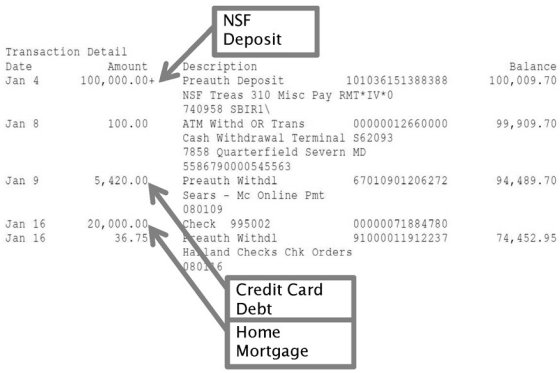
Pay to the Order of Amar Transportation Research and Consulting Inc $75,000.00*

Seventy-Five Thousand and 00/100***** Dollars

Bank of America

Memo Misc

The Bank Records



NSF Deposit

Credit Card Debt

Home Mortgage

Transaction Detail

Date	Amount	Description		Balance
Jan 4	100,000.00+	Preauth Deposit NSF Treas 310 Misc Pay RMT*IV*0 740958 SBIR1\	101036151388388	100,009.70
Jan 8	100.00	ATM Withd OR Trans Cash Withdrawal Terminal S62093 7858 Quarterfield Severn MD 5586790000545563	00000012660000	99,909.70
Jan 9	5,420.00	Preauth Withdl Sears - Mc Online Pmt 080109	67010901206272	94,489.70
Jan 16	20,000.00	Check 995002	00000071884780	
Jan 16	36.75	Preauth Withdl Hartland Checks Chk Orders 080116	91000011912237	74,452.95

ATRC's Expenditure Ledger

Amar Transportation Research & Consulting, Inc.
Expenditure Ledger Details for NSF Project 0740958 for the period 1/1/08-6/30/09*
(*Note: payroll charges appeared through 9/10/2009)

Category	Date	Memo	Amount
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	1/8/2008	New Check Order	36.75
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	4/1/2008	Attorney Fee	3,540.00
Travel	4/1/2008	PI Travel to the Grantee Workshop, VA	550.00
Materials and Supplies	4/15/2008	Office Supplies	800.00
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	4/22/2008	State Tax Filing Fee	300.00
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	4/24/2008	Immigrant visa filing fee for employee	320.00
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	4/24/2008	Immigrant visa filing fee for employee	500.00
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	4/24/2008	Immigrant visa filing fee for employee	300.00
Salaries and Wages	4/29/2008	Payroll-Manoj Jha	946.83
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	4/29/2008	Secretarial Assistance, Payroll-A. Kaur	946.83
Salaries and Wages	5/5/2008	Payroll-Manoj Jha	946.83
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	5/5/2008	Secretarial Assistance, Payroll-A. Kaur	946.83
Salaries and Wages	5/8/2008	Payroll Tax Payment to IRS	468.46
Salaries and Wages	5/22/2008	Payroll-Manoj Jha	946.83
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	5/22/2008	Secretarial Assistance, Payroll-A. Kaur	946.83
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	5/28/2008	Bank Fee	9.99
Salaries and Wages	6/6/2008	Payroll-Manoj Jha	946.84
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	6/6/2008	Secretarial Assistance, Payroll-A. Kaur	946.84
Salaries and Wages	6/19/2008	Payroll-Manoj Jha	946.8
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	6/19/2008	Secretarial Assistance, Payroll-A. Kaur	946.8
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	6/25/2008	Bank Fee	9
Computer	6/30/2008	Computer Purchase	1,882.00
Salaries and Wages	7/2/2008	Payroll-Manoj Jha	946.83
Indirect Cost (Overhead)	7/2/2008	Secretarial Assistance, Payroll-A. Kaur	946.83

Where's the mortgage payment?

Where's the receipt?

"ATRC has a policy of retaining receipts for expenses up to $1,000 for the period of one year and for expenses between $1,000 to $2,000 for the period of two years."

From: Manoj K. Jha [manoj.jha@morgan.edu]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2010 11:06 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: stipend check

Dear [redacted]

Please pick up the stipend check today if it's ready and bring your check book. Thanks.

MJ

From: Manoj K. Jha [manoj.jha@morgan.edu]
Sent: Thursday, May 13, 2010 1:47 AM
To: [redacted]
Subject: can we meet today

Dear [redacted]

Please let me know if we can meet today at 4:00 p.m. I processed a stipend for you from my research grant in the amount of $2,000. You will keep $1,000 and pay me beck $1,000. The check should be ready early next week. Please check with the bursar's office. Thanks.

MJ

Criminal Disposition

- INDICTMENT
- 5 counts of wire fraud: 18 U.S.C. § 1343
- 1 Count of theft 18 U.S.C. . § 666
- 1 count of mail fraud: 18 U.S.C. § 1341
- 1 count of falsification of records: 18 U.S.C. § 1519
- 2 WEEK TRIAL
- 7 FELONY COUNT CONVICTION
- 3 YEARS IMPRISONMENT AND RESTITION
- 5 YEAR DEBARMENT FOLLOWING SUSPENSION

Questions?

- Fara Damelin
  Director, Office of Investigations Legal Division
  NSF OIG
  fdamelin@nsf.gov
  703-292-8873

THANK YOU!

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Leading Practices and Ideas for Protecting COVID-Related Grants from Fraud, Waste and Abuse

INTERNATIONAL PUBLIC SECTOR FRAUD FORUM, JULY 28, 2020



- Use Professional Skepticism
  - DO NOT TRUST – JUST VERIFY
- Goals
  - Preventing fraud
  - Detecting fraud when it happens
  - Making it easier to prosecute fraud and recover funds

- Obtain as much information as possible from Award Applicant/Recipient
  - Eligibility Criteria
  - Present Responsibility
  - Mandate Submission of Key Documents
- Impose LIFE CYCLE Requirements
  - Including Certifications
- Share Verification Plans and Certification Requirements Up Front to Help Deter Fraud

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Friday, May 29, 2020

Man Indicted for COVID-19 Related Loan Fraud

NEWPORT NEWS, Va. – A federal grand jury returned an indictment today charging a Norfolk man with submitting fraudulent disaster-related loan applications in connection with the COVID-19 outbreak that resulted in the disbursement of over $190,000 in proceeds.

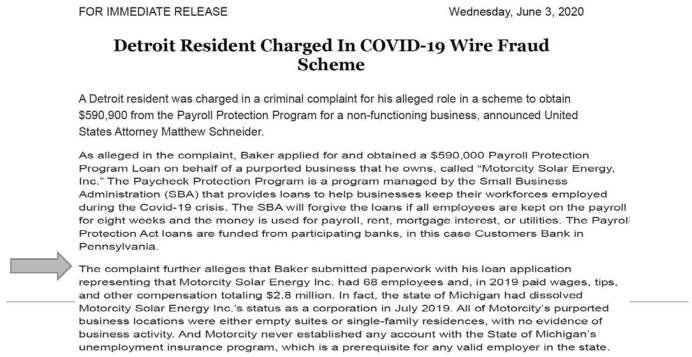
According to the indictment, from at least March 2020 to May 2020, Joseph Cherry II, 39, allegedly engaged in a scheme to fraudulently obtain disaster-related loan benefits in the form of United States Small Business Administration (SBA) sponsored Economic Injury Disaster (EIDL) loans and a Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loan. These SBA programs, initiated and expanded under The CARES Act, are designed to provide support for small businesses for expenses related to the COVID-19 outbreak.

According to the indictment, Cherry, who was serving a term of federal supervised release, allegedly submitted applications for these loans that contained false statements and misrepresentations related to his income, employment, claimed business entities and prior criminal record. The indictment alleges that Cherry fraudulently obtained proceeds of over $190,000 in April 2020. Further, in a few day period, Cherry converted to cash or a cashier's check approximately $140,000 of these proceeds.

PRIOR CONVICTION



- Pre-Award Ideas for Prevention
  - Mandatory anti-fraud training – document attendance
  - Financial management survey
  - Quick Low-Cost Data Matching/Verification
- Include Key Controls in Award Conditions
  - Mandatory Disclosure
    - Shifting responsibility to those in best position to identify fraud
    - A failure to meet this requirement could lead to suspension/debarment and other potential legal consequences
  - Life Cycle Certifications
- Implement Low Cost/High Impact Data Matching
  - At every phase of funding
- Know the available data
  - Limitations and reliability
    - Documents can be altered, fabricated, falsified
    - Focus on the source of the data and how to verify
- Determine what Data Sets to Compare
  - How to obtain, compare and automate
  - Key: Find reliable data sources
    - Records that don't lie



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Wednesday, June 3, 2020

Detroit Resident Charged In COVID-19 Wire Fraud Scheme

A Detroit resident was charged in a criminal complaint for his alleged role in a scheme to obtain $590,900 from the Payroll Protection Program for a non-functioning business, announced United States Attorney Matthew Schneider.

As alleged in the complaint, Baker applied for and obtained a $590,000 Payroll Protection Program Loan on behalf of a purported business that he owns, called "Motorcity Solar Energy, Inc." The Paycheck Protection Program is a program managed by the Small Business Administration (SBA) that provides loans to help businesses keep their workforces employed during the Covid-19 crisis. The SBA will forgive the loans if all employees are kept on the payroll for eight weeks and the money is used for payroll, rent, mortgage interest, or utilities. The Payroll Protection Act loans are funded from participating banks, in this case Customers Bank in Pennsylvania.

The complaint further alleges that Baker submitted paperwork with his loan application representing that Motorcity Solar Energy Inc. had 68 employees and, in 2019 paid wages, tips, and other compensation totaling $2.8 million. In fact, the state of Michigan had dissolved Motorcity Solar Energy Inc.'s status as a corporation in July 2019. All of Motorcity's purported business locations were either empty suites or single-family residences, with no evidence of business activity. And Motorcity never established any account with the State of Michigan's unemployment insurance program, which is a prerequisite for any valid employer in the state.

FABRICATION OF DOCUMENTS

MANDATORY DISCLOSURE

The recipient **shall timely disclose in writing**, to the agency Office of the Inspector General (OIG), with a copy to the Contracting, Grants or Loan Officer, whenever, in connection with award, performance, or closeout of this financial assistance or any subrecipient thereunder, the recipient has **credible evidence** that a principal, employee, agent, or subcontractor of the recipient has committed **a violation of Federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations or a violation of the civil False Claims Act.**

See Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) at Part 52.203-13, Contractor Code of Business Ethics and Conduct.

Life Cycle Certifications

Information they provide must be truthful under penalty of criminal or civil prosecution.

- May help deter some fraud
- Helps educate awardees of seriousness of the requirements and the need to be truthful
- Has proven key to successful prosecutions

Types of information to certified

- Current and Pending Support
- Reversionary Interest
- Disclosure of Conflicts/Related Parties
- Pending Applications and Overlapping Funding
- Financial Reporting – How Funds Spent
- Eligibility Criteria
- Present Responsibility

These certifications should attach AT ALL PHASES:

- Application
- Interim and final progress reports
- Financial reporting
- When funds are drawn down

LIFE CYCLE CERTIFICATION EXAMPLES AT APPLICATION STAGE

☐ I am an officer of the business concern authorized to represent it and sign this certification on its behalf. By signing this certification, I am representing on my own behalf, and on behalf of the business concern that the information provided in this certification, the application, and all other information submitted in connection with this application, is true and correct as of the date of submission. I acknowledge that any intentional or negligent misrepresentation of the information contained in this certification may result in criminal, civil or administrative sanctions, including but not limited to: (1) fines, restitution and/or imprisonment under 18 U.S.C. §1001; (2) treble damages and civil penalties under the False Claims Act (31 U.S.C. §3729 *et seq.*); (3) double damages and civil penalties under the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act (31 U.S.C. §3801 *et seq.*); (4) civil recovery of award funds, (5) suspension and/or debarment from all Federal procurement and nonprocurement transactions (FAR Subpart 9.4 or 2 C.F.R. part 180); and (6) other administrative penalties including termination of SBIR/STTR awards.

NSF SBIR Funding Agreement Certification

Certification Examples
Financial Reports and Draw Downs

"By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812)."

See Uniform Grant Guidance, 2 C.F.R. 200.415

By submitting this electronic request for cash disbursement, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the expenditures, disbursements, and cash receipts associated with this request for payment are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the solicitation, proposal, and award letter, and comply with the terms and conditions of the award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact in NSF proposals, reports, and any other communication submitted to NSF, may subject me to criminal, civil, or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims, or otherwise. (See, e.g., U.S. Code Title 18, Sections 287, 1001 and 1343; Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812).

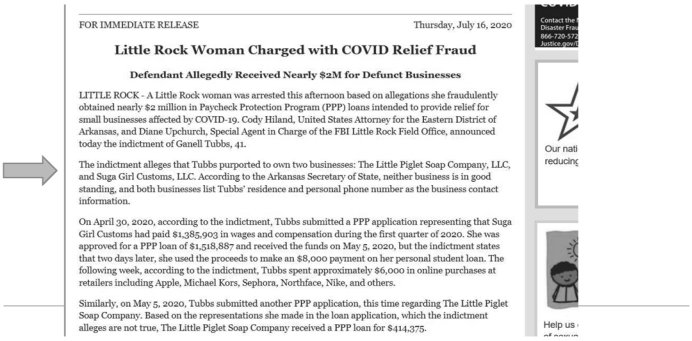
National Science Foundation Requirement



The business and fraud control should work together to **implement low friction counter-measures** to prevent fraud risk where possible

EXAMPLES OF COMMON FRAUD SCHEMES TO IDENTIFY AND COMBAT

1. **Overlapping Funding**
   - Duplicate Billing
2. **Small Business Fraud**
   - Sham companies
   - Conflicts of Interest –Self Dealing
   - One Company Operating Under Multiple Names
3. **Identity Theft**
   - Deceased, Elderly, Veterans, Children



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Thursday, July 16, 2020

Little Rock Woman Charged with COVID Relief Fraud

Defendant Allegedly Received Nearly $2M for Defunct Businesses

LITTLE ROCK - A Little Rock woman was arrested this afternoon based on allegations she fraudulently obtained nearly $2 million in Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans intended to provide relief for small businesses affected by COVID-19. Cody Hiland, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Arkansas, and Diane Upchurch, Special Agent in Charge of the FBI Little Rock Field Office, announced today the indictment of Ganell Tubbs, 41.

The indictment alleges that Tubbs purported to own two businesses: The Little Piglet Soap Company, LLC, and Suga Girl Customs, LLC. According to the Arkansas Secretary of State, neither business is in good standing, and both businesses list Tubbs' residence and personal phone number as the business contact information.

On April 30, 2020, according to the indictment, Tubbs submitted a PPP application representing that Suga Girl Customs had paid $1,385,903 in wages and compensation during the first quarter of 2020. She was approved for a PPP loan of $1,518,887 and received the funds on May 5, 2020, but the indictment states that two days later, she used the proceeds to make an $8,000 payment on her personal student loan. The following week, according to the indictment, Tubbs spent approximately $6,000 in online purchases at retailers including Apple, Michael Kors, Sephora, Northface, Nike, and others.

Similarly, on May 5, 2020, Tubbs submitted another PPP application, this time regarding The Little Piglet Soap Company. Based on the representations she made in the loan application, which the indictment alleges are not true, The Little Piglet Soap Company received a PPP loan for $414,375.

FRAUD COULD HAVE BEEN IDENTIFIED/PREVENTED BY PUBLIC RECORD REVIEW

Carry out **targeted post-event assurance** to look for fraud, ensuring access to fraud investigation resource

- DATA MATCHING
  - Identify reliable sources of data that can be matched against potentially unreliable records
  - Then automate the process, if feasible
- FOLLOW THE MONEY
  - Look into financial reports and actual expenditures especially in high risk areas
- ONGOING ENTERPRISE RISK MANAGEMENT
  - Learn from common fraud schemes
  - Brainstorm with the program and financial management experts
- SCHEDULE AT LEAST ONE GROUP MEETING WITH GRANTEE KEY PERSONNEL
  - Get eyes on whoever is being funded
  - Easier to do now with virtual meetings being the norm

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE Monday, June 29, 2020

Nearly 3,800 Fraudulently Filed Unemployment Insurance Claims Blocked by the U. S. Department of Labor

U.S. Attorney and Oklahoma Attorney General Encourage Oklahomans to Report False Claims Filed in their Name

The U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General (DOL-OIG) in collaboration with the Oklahoma Employment Security Commission (OESC) this month stopped payment on nearly 3,800 fraudulently filed unemployment insurance claims, including 1,300 filed from a range of IP addresses located in London, England, announced Trent Shores, U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Oklahoma; Steven Grell, Special Agent-in-Charge, Dallas Region, U.S. Department of Labor Office of Inspector General; and Mike Hunter, Oklahoma Attorney General.

The DOL-OIG and OESC took action that saved the State of Oklahoma and tax payers more than $15.9 million.

Example of Successfully Using Data to Catch Fraud



Be **mindful of the shift** from emergency payments **into longer term services** and revisit the control framework – especially where large sums are invested

- **Protect the emergency relief funds long term**
  - **Take administrative action whenever possible and appropriate to protect current and future funds**
  - **Develop mechanisms to share information between funding sources with common goals**
- **Be proactive in identifying fraud**
- **Actively engage in recurring outreach initiatives and training**
- **Make awardees responsible for ongoing anti-fraud awareness, training and disclosures**
- **Create processes to learn from the fraud and get smarter about prevention and detection**
- **Build ongoing relationships with prosecutors**

Questions?

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LEADING PRACTICES AND IDEAS FOR PROTECTING FEDERAL FUNDS FROM FRAUD, WASTE AND ABUSE

Fara Damelin, April 2020

1. Mandate that all recipients of CARES Act funds provide certain information and pre-award certifications to include:
    - State or Federal felony convictions over the last 5 years for individuals seeking financial assistance or for businesses applying for financial assistance (for the latter, this should be disclosed for all company officials and officers);
    - Current government-wide suspension or debarment for individuals, entities, or company officials and officers;
    - Current Federal tax liens or delinquencies; (entered prior to 2/15/20)
    - For any business requesting funds under the SBA program, require production of:
        i. articles of incorporation for the business;
        ii. identification of family members on the payroll;
        iii. a list of employees as of 2/15/20 (designating full and part time), with full names, DOB, and social security numbers;
    - Whether they have applied for or received other financial assistance under the CARES Act and if so, to specify which agency, what amount, and type of assistance sought.
    - Whether they have applied for current SBIR/STTR, 8A or other small business funding programs.

NOTE: DOB and family members are particularly important to avoid or deter fraud. Lessons learned from small business fraud include the use of family members, children and elderly individuals, to help perpetuate fraud. In addition, DOB is important because some fraud schemes involve identify theft of older individuals whose names and info are used to boost number of employees on payroll for small businesses. Even just informing small businesses that they will need to include DOBs of employees may deter fraud schemes that involve padding business with kids and elderly.

NOTE: A recent review of 250 individuals convicted of felony fraud against Federal programs between 2013 and 2017, over 70% were not suspended or debarred government-wide. Therefore, it is important to ask for both convictions and exclusions up front.

2. Recommend or require specified data analytics and database checks prior to issuing grants, contracts, loans and other financial assistance to individuals under the CARES Act, to include matching name, social security and DOB against:
    - Treasury's Do Not Pay list;
    - SSA's Master Death Index;
    - System for Award Management, to look for government-wide suspension or debarment and other agency specific restrictions imposed;
    - Federal Awardee Performance Integrity Information System to look for contracts and grants that have been terminated by other agencies;
    - Oversight.gov for audits or investigations; and,
    - Suspicious Activity Reports.

NOTE: For any of the pre-award recommendations in Numbers 1 and 2 above, when there is insufficient time to incorporate and perform these checks prior to awarding certain funds, agencies can notify recipients that this information will be required to be produced and the checks to be conducted prior to the conclusion of the financial assistance agreements, and that the agency reserves the right to suspend, terminate, or collect the aid based upon information obtained, or if the response produced is insufficient or unsatisfactory. This may help deter potential fraud.

3. Adopt current mandatory disclosure provision in the FAR for all federal grants, loans, and other financial assistance issued pursuant to the CARES Act, such as:
   - The CARES Act financial assistance recipient shall timely disclose in writing, to the agency Office of the Inspector General (OIG), with a copy to the Contracting, Grants or Loan Officer, whenever, in connection with award, performance, or closeout of this financial assistance or any subrecipient thereunder, the recipient has credible evidence that a principal, employee, agent, or subcontractor of the recipient has committed a violation of Federal criminal law involving fraud, conflict of interest, bribery, or gratuity violations or a violation of the civil False Claims Act.

4. Mandate life cycle certifications:
   - If fraud cannot be detected before the money goes out, we've learned from small business prosecutions that it is imperative that the recipients are told throughout the lifecycle of the award cycle that the information they provide must be truthful, under penalty of criminal or civil prosecution.
   - These certifications should attach to the application, close out and financial reporting (FFR and financial reports mandated by the CARES Act), as well as when the money is accepted by the recipient.
     - Certifications submitted with the application should include something to the effect of: "I am an officer of the business concern authorized to represent it and sign this certification on its behalf. By signing this certification, I am representing on my own behalf, and on behalf of the business concern that the information provided in this certification, the application, and all other information submitted in connection with this application, is true and correct as of the date of submission."
   - The Uniform Grant Guidance 2 C.F.R. 200.415, contains the following certification for financial reporting:

     > "By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812)."

   - Also consider including a reference to 18 U.S.C. 286, 287 (Criminal False Claims and False Claims Conspiracy.)

5. Consider mandating that all contractors, grantees and loan recipients receiving financial assistance under the CARES Act:
   - Post Fraud Hotline Posters to the PRAC, SIGPR, or to individual OIGs making the awards physically on its premises and on its internal and external websites;
   - Post information regarding Whistleblower Protections afforded to contractors, subcontractors, grantees and subgrantees on its premises and on its internal and external websites; and,
   - Offer training on identifying and reporting fraud, waste and abuse and associated whistleblower rights and protections.
6. Consider mandatory training for contracts, grants, small business loans and other federal financial assistance above a certain threshold.
   - The Air Force and NSF, for example, have adopted mandatory training for its small business programs, on fraud, waste and abuse and the consequences;
     - The Air Force instituted an on-line training program that required signatures by federal SBIR award applicants certifying that they understood and completed the training program and agreed to comply with associated requirements.
   - Given the time crunch associated with issuing this money, if we could produce a model training to offer different agencies, the training would just need to be taken by the conclusion of the award funds issued.
7. For SBA Loans to businesses under the CARES Act, at the conclusion of the loan, either prior to issuing final payment or prior to decision to forgive loan, require each business to provide the following information for purposes of data analytics, and make it known up front that this information will be required:
   - Whether any of the businesses are under federal or state indictment;
   - A list of employees as of 2/15/20 (designating full and part time), with full names, DOB, and social security numbers; and,
   - Payroll records to document and support payments made with the CARES Act loan.

NOTE: In addition to running data analytics of these individuals against the data sources listed in the first bullet, data analytics could also be run to match the names/social security numbers/DOBs against state unemployment insurance records to determine whether these individuals were listed in prior years as employees of the business.

8. Coordinate efforts with the Interagency Suspension and Debarment Committee to encourage:
   - Timely use of government-wide suspension and debarment actions to protect CARES Act funds; and,
   - Tracking of suspension and debarment actions related to CARES Act funds.
9. Coordinate efforts with agency OGCs to actively consider the enhanced use of the Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act to recover funds associated with false claims under $150,000.

NOTE: CIGIE's Legislation Committee continues to seek statutory modifications to PFCRA that would make it more efficient and less costly to pursue.

NSF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL
Fraud and Waste in the SBIR/STTR Program

NCET2 Webinar:
Defining and Curbing Fraud and Waste in the SBIR Program

September 24, 2012

What is an Office of Inspector General?

- Each federal agency has independent OIG
- OIG missions:
  - Prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse
  - Promote economy, effectiveness, efficiency
  - Keep agency head and Congress fully and currently informed
- OIG Tools To Meet Mission Goals:
  - Investigations
  - Audits

BACKGROUND: NSF OIG INVESTIGATIONS

- **Who are we?**
  - Special agents (Federal Law Enforcement Officers)
  - Investigative Attorneys
  - Investigative Scientists
  - Analysts
- **How are investigations initiated?**
  - Reactive
  - Proactive
- **What types of Investigations?**
  - Civil/Criminal
  - Administrative

3

What Types of Issues do we Investigate?

CIVIL/CRIMINAL

- **Theft/embezzlement**
- **Financial mismanagement**
- **Misuse of grant funds**
- **Conflicts of Interests**

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Research Misconduct:**
  - **Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification**
- **Conflicts of Interests**
- **Merit review violations**

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SBIR/STTR FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

- Background & Purpose of SBIR/STTR Programs
- Eligibility Requirements
- Relationship with Universities
- Common Types of Abuse
  - Facilities
  - Primary Employment
  - Overlapping/Duplicative funding
  - Subcontracts
- Investigative Outcomes
  - Indictments for false statements/false claims/theft of federal program funds/mail fraud/wire fraud
  - Government-wide suspension and debarment



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Program Background

- Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR)
  - Enacted in 1982, as part of the Small Business Innovation Development Act
  - 2.5% of research budgets of agencies with extramural R&D budgets over $100M
- Small Business Technology Transfer (STTR)
  - Established by the Small Business Technology Transfer Act of 1992
  - 0.3% of research budgets of agencies with extramural R&D budgets over $1B



Program Goals

- **Develop intellectual capital** – Make awards for research that build upon recent discoveries in basic sciences and engineering and provides opportunities for individuals who have, or are working toward, advanced scientific, engineering, or education degrees.
- **Strengthen the physical infrastructure** – Make awards that lead to development of new scientific, engineering, and education capability through commercialization of advanced instruments, new processes, and innovative software, etc.
- **Integrate research and education** – Encourage awardees to disseminate research findings through scholarly journals and professional meetings.
- **Promote partnerships** – Encourage awardees to engage in cooperative activities involving industry, government (state, local, Federal), and academia.

(www.nsf.gov)

Participating Agencies

SBIR:

1. USDA (G)
2. Commerce (C)
3. DOD (C)
4. Education (C/G)
5. Energy (G)
6. DHS (C)
7. HHS (C/G)
8. Transportation (C)
9. EPA (C)
10. NASA (C)
11. NSF (G)

STTR:

1. DOD (C)
2. Energy (G)
3. HHS (C/G)
4. NASA (C)
5. NSF (G)

SBIR/STTR Award Structure

- 3 Phases – Companies **must** have a successful Phase 1 to receive a Phase 2 award!
- Phase 1:
  - Feasibility Study
  - 6 months
  - $70-150K
    - Phase IB: Matching program requiring outside investment
- Phase 2:
  - Expansion/ Development
  - 2 years
  - $300K-$1M
    - Phase IIB: Matching program requiring outside investment
- Phase 3:
  - Commercialization
  - Private or Non-SBIR Federal funding

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- U.S. small business as defined by SBA
  - Principal place of business is in the U.S.
  - At least 51% U.S. owned
  - Maximum 500 employees
- Cannot receive funding for duplicate work (disclosure of related overlapping work is required)

MORE ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

- Work performed by the Company:
  - Phase 1 – SBIR minimum 2/3 research done by company; STTR at least 40% company, 30% partner
  - Phase 2 – SBIR minimum 1/2 research done by company; STTR at least 40% company, 30% partner
- Amount of Effort by Principal Investigator
  - Generally, one month per 6 months of award period
- Primary employment of Principal Investigator (PI) is with the company
  - Means that separate and distinct from required months of effort by PI, the PI must ALSO work at least 51% time with the small business
    - Cannot be PI for SBIR/STTR and work full-time or even 50% for a University or other employer

MORE ABOUT STTR AWARDS

- Goal of this program is to support collaboration between a small business and a collaborating research institution
- 30% of the STTR budgets (all phases) are required to go to the collaborating research institution
- STTR awards would not be made but for this budgeted collaboration

CERTIFICATIONS

- These eligibility requirements are not merely technicalities .
  - If you do not meet these requirements, you are not eligible for the award.
  - False Statements and omissions that affirm that you meet one or more criteria when you do not, constitute criminal violations.
- SBIR/STTR grantees must certify that these eligibility requirements multiple times.
  - In proposals, requests for payments, interim and final project reports
- NSF provides mandatory paid training regarding these requirements.
  - Grantees are expected to read and know the provisions of the applicable grant conditions cited in SBIR/STTR award letter.
- NSF requires financial capability reviews prior to issuance of Phase II SBIR and STTR awards.

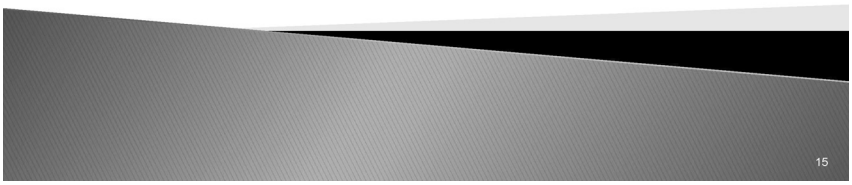
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MORE ABOUT CERTIFICATIONS

- Certifications expressly notify the certifier that provision of false information is a violation of criminal law
  - "I certify that to the best of my knowledge…the statements herein are true and complete…I understand that the willful provision of false information or concealing a material fact in this report or in any other communication submitted to NSF is a criminal offense (U.S. Code, Title 18, Section 1001).
    - Not just in proposals and reports, but also in emails communicating with NSF program and financial personnel.

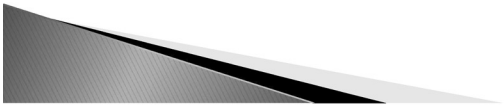
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CASE STUDIES



RECENT CASES – Companies A & B

- PIs and Small Companies suspended government-wide pending SBIR/STTR fraud investigations
  - For lying about primary employment – PI had university appointment; 50% and up breaks the rules!
  - For lying about outside investment funds – False representations made to NSF to obtain supplemental Phase IB funding.
  - For lying about overlapping funding – Even if you create a second company to resubmit portions of your work, you're still receiving duplicate funding.
  - For providing false information about time and effort expended on Phase II award – NSF requires and reviews milestone charts on project reports and relies on representations in those milestone charts before releasing funding, so they must contain accurate information.
  - For misuse of NSF award funds – Paying your mortgage or transferring large portions of award funds directly to your personal account is not OK.



RECENT CASES – Company C

- STTR Grantee Indicted for False Claims
  - For falsely certifying primary employment and diverting $100,000 grant funds
  - Company owner and sole proprietor took advantage of eager researchers at the STTR partner institution
  - Company owner promised to hire the graduate student of the partner university researcher if STTR was awarded, and put the grad student on the proposal as PI
  - Company owner never hired the PI, despite certifying to NSF on the proposal, initial request for payment, and final report cover page that the PI was primarily employed by the company
  - Company Owner spent over $80K on personal credit card debt that had been racking up for years
  - PENDING TRIAL



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RECENT CASES – Company D

- STTR Grantee Under Investigation for False Claims, Wire Fraud
  - For falsely certifying primary employment and diverting grant funds
  - Won 2 awards with substantial sums budgeted for university partners
  - Used work performed by the university in his proposals and reports, but claimed breach of contract when it came time to pay the invoices
  - Plagiarized previously published materials to complete project reports
  - Worked full time at a large company throughout the award periods, despite certifying to NSF on the proposals, initial requests for payment, and final report cover pages that the PI was primarily employed by the company
  - Used most of the funds for personal expenses and investments
  - 2nd university partner reported what happened, otherwise, it may have gone undetected
  - PENDING INVESTIGATION



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QUESTIONS



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Contact Information

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  - **(703) 292-7533**
- **Fara Damelin, Investigative Attorney, fdamelin@nsf.gov**
  - **(703) 292-8873**

Confidential Communications

E-mail: oig@nsf.gov

Mail: NSF—ATTN: OIG HOTLINE
4201 Wilson Boulevard; II-705
Arlington, VA. 22230

Anonymous Communications: Hotline:1-800-428-2189
www.nsf.gov click on IG Hotline

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NSF Office of Inspector General: Hot Topics

Fara Damelin
Investigative Attorney, Office of Inspector General,
National Science Foundation

Denise Clark
Associate Vice President for Administration,
University of Maryland

NCURA Region II Spring Meeting
Buffalo, NY, April 21-24, 2013



WHAT IS AN OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL?

Each federal agency has independent OIG

OIG missions:

- Prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse
- Promote economy, effectiveness, efficiency
- Keep agency **head** and Congress fully and currently informed

OIG Tools To Meet Mission Goals:

- Investigations
- Audits

BACKGROUND: NSF OIG INVESTIGATIONS

Who Are We?
- Special agents (Federal Law Enforcement Officers)
- Investigative Scientists
- Investigative Attorneys
- Analysts

How are investigations initiated?
- Reactive
- Proactive

What types of Investigations?
- Civil/Criminal
- Administrative

3

WHAT TYPES OF ISSUES DO WE INVESTIGATE?

CIVIL/CRIMINAL
- Theft/embezzlement
- Financial mismanagement
- Misuse of grant funds
- Conflicts of Interests

ADMINISTRATIVE
- Research Misconduct: Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification
- Conflicts of Interests
- Merit review violations

4

FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS
HOW DO GRANTEES GET IN TROUBLE

Embezzlement/Theft

- Using grant funds to pay for personal mortgage payment, bedroom furniture, vacations, American Idol tickets

False Statements

- Falsely asserting support of a key organization in proposal
- Falsely asserting collaboration with a foreign scientist
- Falsely certifying eligibility requirements for award program
- Falsely certifying required matching funds (cost-sharing)
- False financial reporting



FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS:
HOW DO GRANTEES GET IN TROUBLE?

- **FALSE CLAIMS**
  - Claiming reimbursement for grant funds not spent on funded project
  - Grantee-approved no cost extension just to spend remaining grant funds
  - Drawing down federal funds for unallowable expenses
  - False Interim Reports and Milestone Charts in SBIR/STTR Phase II Awards
- **MISMANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS**
  - Co-mingling federal and non-federal funds
  - Failing to account for expenditure of federal funds
  - Transferring costs from overdrawn project accounts
  - Charging one grant for expenditures of another
  - Failing to know, follow, or care about applicable rules
  - Expending funds after award expiration date



POSSIBLE OUTCOMES OF CIVIL/CRIMINAL INVESTIGATIONS

- **Civil Action**
  - Civil False Claims Act (Treble damages)
- **Criminal Action (Prosecution)**
  - Criminal False Claims/False Statements
  - Theft/Embezzlement
  - Mail/Wire Fraud
  - Conspiracy
  - Obstruction
- **Administrative Action**
  - Suspension/termination of current NSF awards
  - Government-wide suspension/debarment



HOT TOPIC

GOVERNMENT-WIDE SUSPENSIONS AND DEBARMENTS

To protect federal funds from those who are not "presently responsible"

Consequences:

- Central GSA Excluded Parties List
- Applies to all prospective grants and contracts over $25,000
- If one agency imposes, barred from ALL federal funds

Recent Trend:

- Fact-based suspensions imposed during ongoing investigations



HOT TOPIC

SBIR/STTR FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

Background &Purpose of SBIR/STTR Programs

Eligibility Requirements

Relationship with Universities

Common Types of Abuse

- Facilities
- Primary Employment
- Overlapping/Duplicative funding

Investigative Outcomes

- Indictments for false statements/false claims/theft of federal program funds/mail fraud/wire fraud
- Government wide suspension and debarment



REASONS WHY UNIVERSITIES WANT TO KNOW WHEN A UNIVERSITY EMPLOYEE IS A PI ON AN SBIR/STTR AWARD

1. **Because a PI on an SBIR/STTR award must be "primarily employed" by the company that receives the federal funds**
2. **Because serving as a PI on an SBIR/STTR award requires a time commitment**
3. **Because of likely conflicts of interest that must be managed**
4. **Because the university must know of all current and pending support for PIs applying for federal funds through the university**
5. **Because some PI's on SBIR/STTR awards wrongfully perform work on SBIR/STTR awards at university labs with university equipment**



TOP 10 THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY TO AN OIG INVESTIGATOR

1. Do you think I have time to read all of your rules?
2. Time and Effort Policy? Well, we don't actually have one of those yet.
3. Sorry, I can't get you the records; they are being archived in a dangerous building.
4. Wow..Really? No! Entertainment can't be charged to federal awards? Is a trip to Universal Studios considered entertainment?
5. If I have to go back and create cost share records now, that's what I'll do!



TOP 10 (OR 11) THINGS YOU DON'T WANT TO SAY TO AN OIG INVESTIGATOR

6. Wow, I had no idea our records were such a mess.
7. I probably threw out the COI disclosure form…I throw out anything that looks bureaucratic.
8. Chicken Dinner Analogy: which goes…
9. I signed the purchase requisition because I saw that everyone else signed too.
10. No, I haven't received any formal training about federal grants management. BUT I have received "on the job" training.
11. Well, sure, if you are going to rely on our time sheets, you would probably have a pretty good False Claims Act case.



NUMBER 12:
BUT…WE DID THE WORK!!!

Very common defense to grant fraud cases

Problem Scenario: If grantee receives $1 million to carry out a funded proposal, carries out the work for $500,000, and spends the full amount of the award….

We still need to know where the other $500,000 went….AND

The Grantee can still be charged for false claims associated with the other $ ½ million



NOTE ON EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

Sometimes it is not what a grantee/PI says, but instead, what the grantee/PI writes, that could cause some trouble.

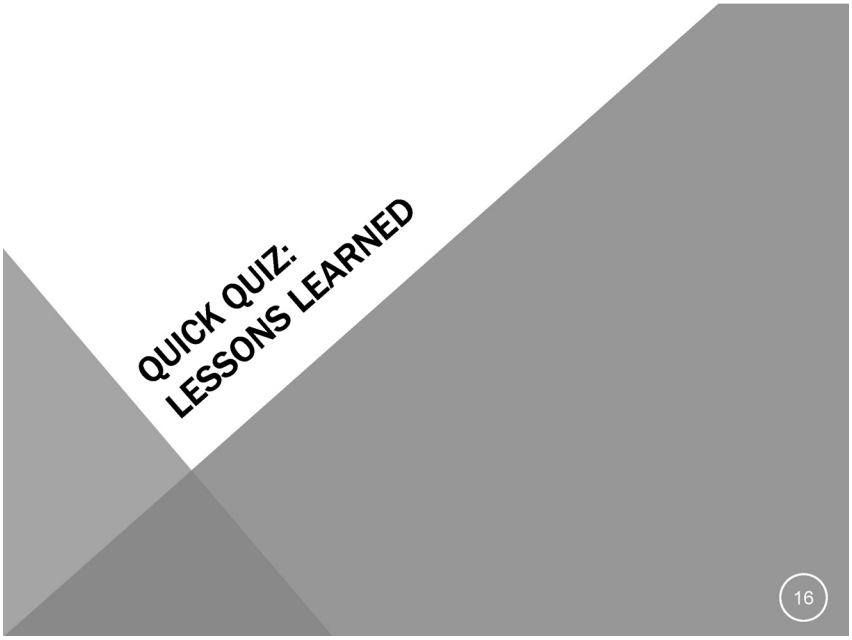
Examples….



HOW TO AVOID TROUBLE:

1. **Read and know the applicable grant conditions, rules and regulations when receiving federal grant funds:**
   - Provide and Document Training (Mandatory)
2. **Maintain (during, not after the fact) adequate documentation to support all expenditures, including cost share**
3. **Ensure your financial reporting matches your financial records**
4. **Do not expend award funds post-expiration or for purposes unrelated to the award**
5. **Do not provide inaccurate information or false certifications to Grantee institution or Federal Agency**





Multiple choice Question 1

You receive an IG Subpoena requesting all time sheets for an expired NSF Award.

A. Because you didn't maintain any time sheets during the award period, you create new ones, back date them and submit them in response to the IG subpoena?

B. You had maintained two sets of time sheets for the same time periods that you charged to two separate federally funded projects. You respond to the subpoena by only producing one set of timesheets.

C. You had maintained timesheets, but you had a policy of charging time to projects based not on the work that was performed, but instead, on how much money was available in each project account. You submit those timesheets in response to the IG subpoena with a representation that they reflect actual work performed.

D. None of the above.

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Multiple Choice Question 2:

You work in the Office of Sponsored Programs and are responsible as one of several signatories on purchase orders for Equipment . You receive a purchase order that only contains an order product number, with no description.

A. You sign the purchase order because two other people including the department chair signed off on it first.

B. You sign the purchase order because you believe it is for equipment, and there is still funding available in the budget for equipment.

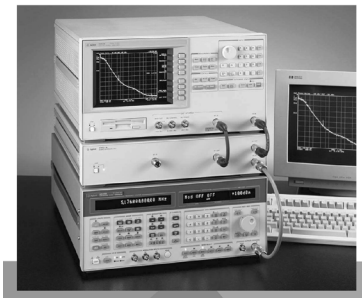
C. You sign the purchase order because you believe the PI is responsible for and can be trusted to ensure that whatever is being ordered is related to the grant.

D. None of the above.

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NSF Award Budget includes the purchase of Engineering Equipment, but Cameras purchased instead:

Agilent Technologies
Signal Analyzer
$67,970



Dodd Camera and Video
Sinar P3 Camera + accessories
$44,346



Multiple Choice Question 3:

You receive a written request by an OIG to produce a General Ledger to document expenditures on an NSF award:

A. As a PI for an SBIR Phase I award, you didn't actually account for your $149,000 Phase I award during the award period. But to respond to the OIG request, you create a GL that you produce to OIG. Because some of the money was spent on personal expenses, you eliminate any reference to those expenditures, and create new expenditures for office expenses.

B. As an administrator at a university, you realize that expenditures were not well documented or supported. So you produce three different GL's to OIG in hopes that one of them suffices.

C. You work at a non-profit company that has the practice of comingling federal and non federal funds in one project account, without discretely accounting for federal award funds. In addition, your company charges all project expenses to the commingled funds whether or not permissible under federal award conditions. Because you can't demonstrate how federal award funds were spent, you submit documentation for all project expenses.

D. None of the above.

OIG Requests General Ledger for a closed cooperative agreement

- Cooperative agreement: $2,494,078
- Initial response: $2,201,728
- During site visit: $2,533,078
- Response to IG subpoena: $2,494,078



HOT OFF THE PRESS: RECENT CASES

- University PI's Indicted, Pled Guilty and Sentenced for Theft of Federal Program Funds
  - For using grant funds to purchase photography equipment for personal use, instead of engineering equipment as proposed: Home Confinement, Restitution and Probation
  - For diverting federal grant funds for personal travel, billing as business conferences and submitting false registrations and receipts: Restitution, Fine and Probation
- STTR/SBIR PI 's Indicted for Wire Fraud and Obstruction
  - For diverting federal grant funds for personal credit card debt and mortgage, and falsely certifying eligibility requirements for the small business award and creating fake expenditure
  - For falsely certifying primary employment and diverting $100,000 for personal credit cards
  - For falsely certifying no overlapping funding and primary employment
- Grantees Settle Civil Cases with Federal Government and enter into Mandatory Compliance Plans
  - In FCA Cases:
    - University failed to maintain adequate documentation and reallocated certain costs without required prior written approval
    - University employee misused grant funds intended for students
  - In Common Law Case: Financial accounting system unable to demonstrate that expenses charged to federal funds were allowable, reasonable and allocable

23

Key to Prevention?

Compliance Programs



Government

Institution/University

Researcher

24

Compliance Program

A SYSTEM OF RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT, CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH EMPLOYEES CAN OPERATE WITH INTEGRITY

Compliance Programs can be implemented voluntarily or mandated as part of negotiated resolution

Compliance Programs Require:

- **Leadership** - commitment to do the right thing
- **Management** - ethical environment
  - Focus on high risk areas
  - Provide systematic monitoring, auditing, oversight
- **Training** - Communicate facts and expectations
- **Action** - Early detection and correction problems
- **Reporting** – Relay information regarding wrongdoing

25

Elements of an Effective Compliance Program

1. Reasonable Compliance Standards and Procedures
2. Specific High-Level Personnel Responsible
3. Due Care in Assignments with Substantial Discretionary Authority
4. Effective Communication of Standards and Procedures
5. Establish Monitoring and Auditing Systems and Reporting Systems (whistleblowing without fear of retaliation)
6. Consistent Enforcement of Standards
7. Respond Appropriately to the Offense (reporting to law enforcement, modify program, prevention)

* Federal Sentencing Guidelines U.S.S.G. 8B2.5(f) & 8D1.4(c)(1) (11/1/04)

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Benefits of Compliance Programs

- Demonstrates commitment to ethical conduct
- Ensures Accountability
- Minimizes or detects criminal conduct
- Encourages reporting
- Creates awareness through training
- Prevents improper expenditures; improves grant administration
- May help avoid the filing of legal actions
- Mitigation, e.g., may reduce penalty or administrative actions

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HOW COMPLIANCE PROGRAMS ARE DEVELOPED

VOLUNTARY

Many universities and non-profits voluntarily creating compliance programs

- They recognize the benefits
- They see it as the right thing to do

CoGR June 2005 Guidance

- Encourages voluntary compliance programs as means for institutions to meet compliance obligations

28

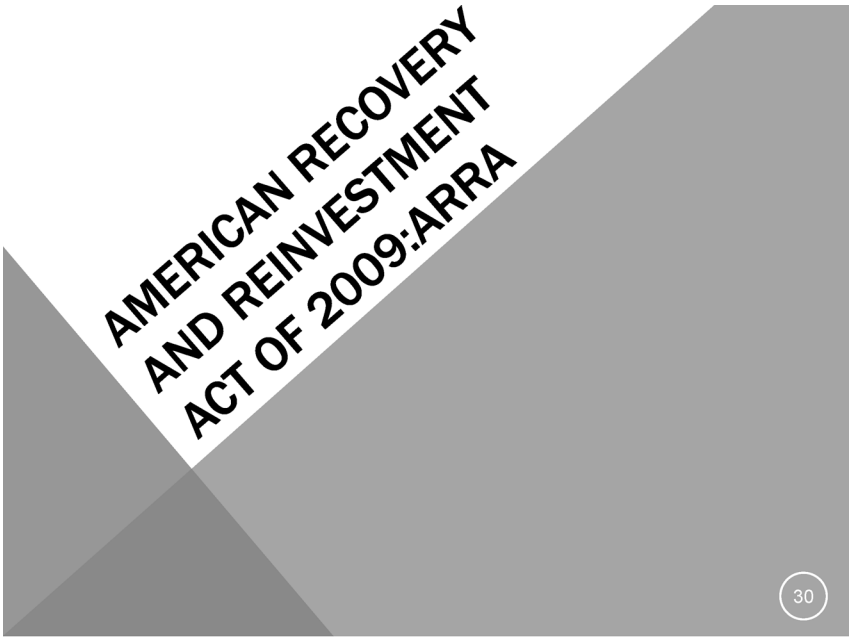
AND "NOT SO VOLUNTARY"

Trend: DOJ incorporates mandatory compliance plans into settlements with grantees for:

- Overcharging IDC
- Misusing federal grant funds
- Creating false cost-share certifications
- Double billing
- Maintaining false time and effort reports
- Failing to discretely account for federal award expenditures or maintain adequate documentation

These mandatory compliance plans generally 5 years, require annual compliance audits, and provide monitoring by federal agency.





SPECIAL ARRA REQUIREMENTS

- Reports and Accounting:
  Must discretely account for expenditure of ARRA funds
  Multiple reports, with significant data: Tell the truth!

- You must report to OIG "any credible evidence" of wrongdoing.

- Whistleblower protections:
  - Mandates posted notices for employees about their rights
  - Prohibits retaliation
  - Provides OIG investigates allegations of retaliation related to ARRA funds

31

QUESTIONS



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WANT TO LEARN MORE?

Surf Our Website:
www.nsf.gov/oig

- NSF OIG Brochures
- NSF OIG Semiannual Reports
- NSF OIG Outreach Presentations
- NSF OIG Case Closeouts



CONTACT INFORMATION

Anonymous Communications:

Hotline:1-800-428-2189 OR www.nsf.gov (click on IG Hotline)

Confidential Communications

E-mail: oig@nsf.gov

Mail: NSF—ATTN: OIG HOTLINE
4201 Wilson Boulevard; II-705
Arlington, VA. 22230

Fara Damelin, Investigative Attorney, OIG/NSF

fdamelin@nsf.gov

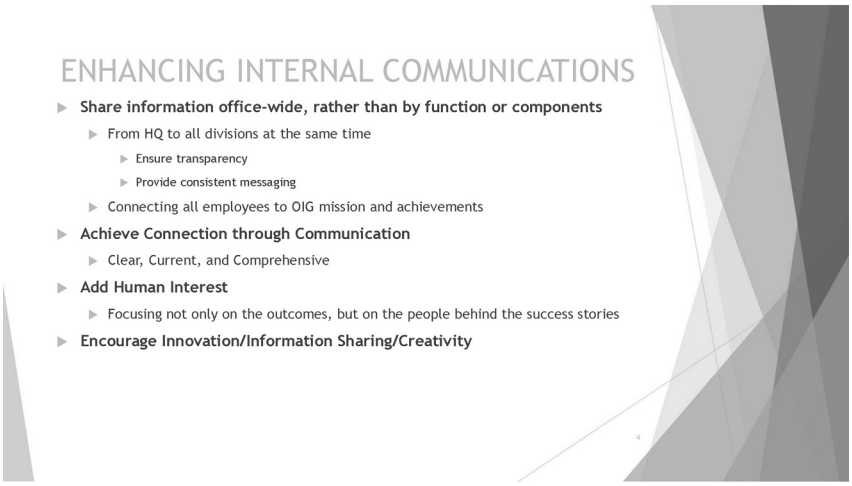
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ONE OIG WORKPLACE
CREATING AN ENHANCED INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS CULTURE AND PROGRAM
1


THANKS TO THESE OIGS FOR THEIR HELP AND IDEAS!!
EPA OIG
HUD OIG
Interior OIG
DOE OIG
DOJ OIG
DOT OIG
GSA OIG
NSF OIG
SSA OIG
USDA OIG
USPS OIG
2


MISSION:
Enhance Internal Communications within OIG
Information Sources
Interviews with PAWG Reps
Review Websites
Read Newsletters/Email Updates
Human Interest/Employee Engagement Programs
FEVS Results
Examples
Compiling Data
Summarized best practices
Lessons learned
Charted out information obtained from all sources
"Borrowed" most popular ideas
3


ENHANCING INTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS
Share information office-wide, rather than by function or components
From HQ to all divisions at the same time
Ensure transparency
Provide consistent messaging
Connecting all employees to OIG mission and achievements
Achieve Connection through Communication
Clear, Current, and Comprehensive
Add Human Interest
Focusing not only on the outcomes, but on the people behind the success stories
Encourage Innovation/Information Sharing/Creativity
4

BENEFITS OF ENGAGING EMPLOYEES

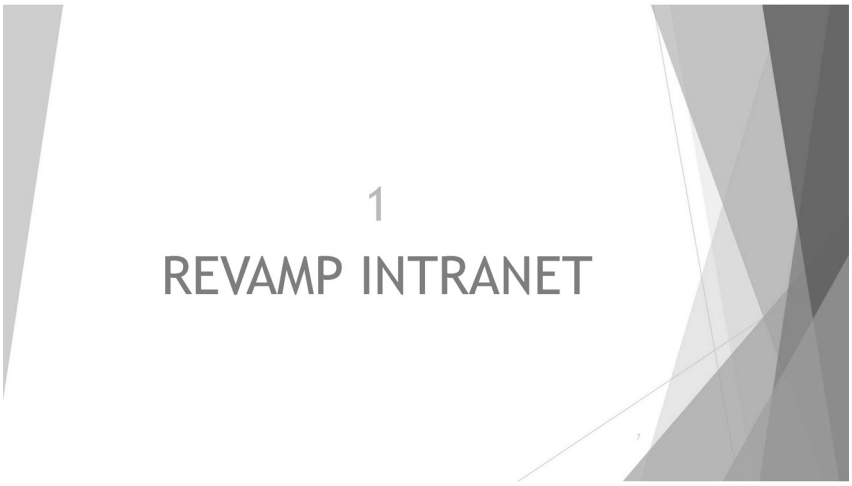
- Improve employee morale and satisfaction
- Encourage and achieve increased collaboration
- Create pride in the organization
- Measure success
  - FEVS results, retention rates, feedback/stories, surveys, analytics
- RESEARCH IN SUPPORT THE BENEFITS OF EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVES
  - GAO's 7/15 Report: "Additional Analysis and Sharing of Promising Practices Could Improve Employee Engagement and Performance."
  - OPM's 9/15 Report: "Engaging the Federal Workforce: How to do it and Prove It"
  - FRB OIG's 11/17 Report: "Leadership and Management's Best Practices to Increase Employee Willingness to Share Views"

5

FOUR MAIN GOALS/OUTCOMES

1. **Revamp intranet**
   - Structure by subject, not component
   - Keep information current
   - Encourage participation
   - Add human interest
2. **Provide current consistent information across the organization**
   - Monthly recap of key current information, via email with hyperlinks
   - Newsletter
   - IG Video Clips, Email Shout Outs, and End of the Year Impact Video
3. **Implement low cost, high impact ideas for bringing people together**
   - Peer Recognition Program, Employee Profile, Region of the Month
4. **Create an Internal Communications Plan**
   - Documenting main goals and how to achieve them
   - Identifying resources and a team responsible for implementation

6


1
REVAMP INTRANET
7


Intranet Ideas from our OIG community:
Looked at how other agencies revamped their intranet sites
Common features/ideas
Personal spotlights
Length of Service
Employee spotlight
Comings and Goings/Hails and Farewells
Congratulations
Communities of practice
Feedback from other OIGs
Including personal features, pictures and current information is key
Incorporating analytics is important
The best way to reach as many people as possible is to diversity the way information is shared
Even if that means providing duplicate information in different forums
8

IDEAS/BUTTONS FOR CONSIDERATION



- **News and Info**
  - CIGIE newsletters and updates
  - Weekly News Clips
  - Relevant memos
- **Outreach and Training**
  - CIGIE training schedules
  - Other outreach presentations
- **Case and Audit Updates**
  - DOJ press releases
- **Features**
  - Current Announcements
  - Employee/Regional Spotlights

9

FOCUS ON THE PEOPLE BEHIND THE ORGANIZATIONIAL SUCCESS!

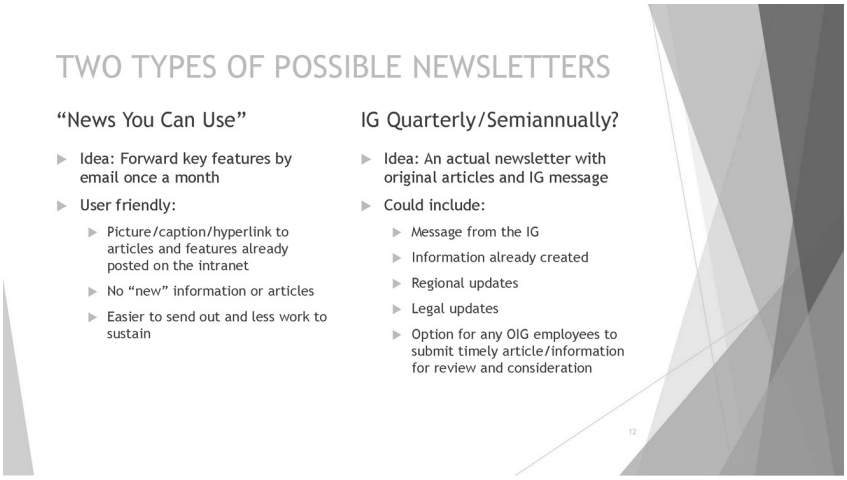






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2
NEWSLETTERS AND SHARING SUCCESS STORIES
11


TWO TYPES OF POSSIBLE NEWSLETTERS
"News You Can Use"
Idea: Forward key features by email once a month
User friendly:
Picture/caption/hyperlink to articles and features already posted on the intranet
No "new" information or articles
Easier to send out and less work to sustain
IG Quarterly/Semiannually?
Idea: An actual newsletter with original articles and IG message
Could include:
Message from the IG
Information already created
Regional updates
Legal updates
Option for any OIG employees to submit timely article/information for review and consideration
12

Federal Acquisition Institute's Email Update: FAI TODAY



News for the Acquisition Workforce

FAI Today

FEDERAL ACQUISITION INSTITUTE

"Newsletter"

Goodbye FAI Quarterly Newsletter
Hello FAI Today!

You spoke, we listened! Thank you for providing feedback to us through our recent newsletter survey. FAI has decided to move to more frequent and shorter e-mail blasts such as this one to get the latest news and important information to the Federal Acquisition Workforce!

FAITAS

Register in FAITAS ASAP!

If you are planning to sign up for online courses don't delay! From 27 Sept 2017 – 30 Sept 2017, Course Registration for online DAU and LMS Courses in FAITAS will be unavailable, in order to make the transition from FY17 to FY18. System users will again be able to register for classes on 1 Oct 2017. Note: The DAU Virtual Campus and the FAITAS Learning Management System will continue to be available during this period for you to work on the course(s), to which you are enrolled. If you are dropped or failed from a DL Course and/or CI, Module during this period, you will need to wait until 0700 EST 1 Oct 2017 to reapply or register. **Please plan accordingly.**



SEMINAR

New Acquisition Seminar! Learning and Development Across Generations

Today's Federal workforce consists of individuals that span multiple generations, including Baby Boomers, Generation X, and Millennials. Learning & development efforts need to engage people across these generations to ultimately ensure the creation of a qualified workforce is meeting the organizational mission. This seminar will offer valuable insight and useful information on learning & development, and how the generations of the federal workforce inform learning & development efforts. The seminar is available in the FAI Media Library or register through FAITAS to earn CLPs: FCL-A-0035.

More Classes

More FAC-C Classes are Here!

FAI is very pleased to announce that more FAC-C classes have been added to the training schedule running through February 2018 – at NO COST to your agency. This includes the expanded use of the virtual instructor-led training (vILT). More info

2018 Leadership Excellence in Acquisition Program (LEAP)

The Partnership for Public Service's Leadership Excellence in Acquisition Program (LEAP) is a development program specifically for mid-level, high-performing federal acquisition professionals.



NSF WEEKLY WIRE

January 17, 2018 View on Web

RECENT OFFICIAL ISSUANCES

IB 18-01, Fiscal Year 2018 Critical Dates

FOUNDATION NEWS

You are Invited: New Year, New Neighbors Welcome Bash - Today!

The USPTO is hosting a New Year, New Neighbors Welcome Bash to welcome NSF to the neighborhood on Jan 17, 4 to 7pm in the USPTO Atrium
Read More...



HOT on the HUB

Was anything on the Hub this month? Here's a quick roundup of Hub activity to keep you updated. Click through to read more.



NEWS YOU CAN USE

A GSA OIG email update
December 7, 2017

Legislative Update

Click here to see an update on the FY 2018 National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA).

Comings & Goings



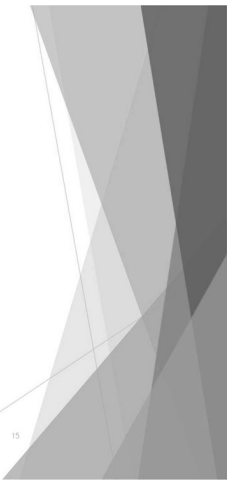
THE MESSENGER

Your M&P source for administrative information.

Issue 2017-12 March 2, 2017

Other Ways to Provide Consistent Messaging From the Top

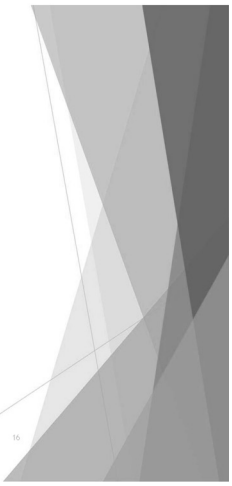
- **IG video clip**
  - Semiannual or annual message to the OIG
  - Short - 2-4 minutes addressing key major topics of interest
- **Remote all hands/virtual town halls**
- **Ask the IG/Deputy IG**



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3

LOW COST, HIGH IMPACT



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IDEAS FOR BRINGING PEOPLE TOGETHER

- **Employee Spotlight Feature/On the flip side/Getting to Know**
- **Division/Regional Spotlight Article** – highlighting work and outcome
- **Recognition**
  - ***IG Awards Ceremony***
  - ***Peer Recognition Program*** - STAFF SHOUT OUT
  - ***Office wide emails of recognition***
- **Holiday Or Public Service Recognition Slide Presentation/Video**

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Getting to Know You Survey

- How long have you worked at GSA OIG, and what do you do?
- What attracted you to your current position?
- What profession other than your own would you like to attempt?
- If you could have dinner with 2 people from history, who would they be?
- Describe yourself in 3 words.
- If you could give your 18-year old self one piece of advice, what would it be?
- What is your greatest accomplishment?
- Finish this sentence, "On an ideal Saturday, I would....."
- What is your favorite vacation spot? Or Restaurant? or Movie? or TV Show?
- Have you had any great career mentors, and if so, what made them great?

ALTERNATIVELY, if you're feeling really creative, you can choose to provide five "Fun Facts" about yourself, and/or share a biggest work challenge story.

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Employee Spotlights

GETTING TO KNOW...
FARA DAMELIN



1. How long have you worked at GSA OIG, and what do you do?
I've been with GSA OIG since July 12, 2017. I'm here for a CIGIE Fellowship and working on enhancing internal communications.

2. What attracted you to your current position?
The people and GSAIG's awesome semi-annual report. Also, after 14 years of focusing on fraud, I thought it would be fun to focus on the people who find the fraud.

3. If you could have dinner with 2 people from history, who would they be?
My Grandparents, Simon and Stella Kravetz. They were awesome!

4. Describe yourself in 3 words.
Energetic, dedicated/motivated, and fun. (I would say funny, but too many people might successfully challenge that.)

5. If you could give your 18-year old self one piece of advice, what would it be?
Study abroad for at least six months !!! What a lost opportunity!

6. What is your favorite movie and TV show?
When Harry Met Sally

7. Five Fun Facts:

- **My husband and I have two teenage daughters who assure me that I am "the most embarrassing mom ever."**
- **I have a personally-owned blackberry, proving my daughters right.**
- **I have been a Girl Scout leader for many years, which is made remarkable by the fact that I don't cook, sew or camp.**
- **I do not know how to ride a bicycle.**
- **I did not start to eat vegetables until I was 40, at the rate of 1 new veggie a year. I eat 7 vegetables now...**
- **We have a cat by the name of "CAT."**

OH WAIT, that's SIX Fun Facts!

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CAN ALSO USE THIS FORMAT TO INTRODUCE COMPONENTS AND REGIONS

- REGIONS
  - WHERE'S GEORGE? (WHAT IS GEORGE?)
- COMPONENTS
  - AUDIT
  - INVESTIGATIONS
  - EVALUATIONS
  - ADMINISTRATIVE
  - COUNSEL

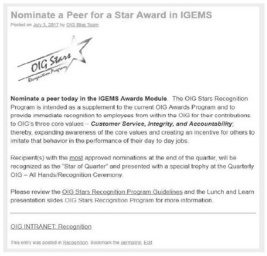






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Peer Recognition: EPA OIG and DOT OIG



Nominate a Peer for a Star Award in IGEMS

Posted on Jun 5, 2017 by OIG Blog Team

OIG Stars

Nominate a peer today in the IGEMS Awards Module. The OIG Stars Recognition Program is intended as a supplement to the current OIG Awards Program and to provide immediate recognition to employees from within the OIG for their contributions to OIG's three core values – ***Customer Service, Integrity, and Accountability***; thereby, expanding awareness of the core values and creating an incentive for others to imitate that behavior in the performance of their day to day jobs.

Recipient(s) with the most approved nominations at the end of the quarter, will be recognized as the "Star of Quarter" and presented with a special trophy at the Quarterly OIG – All Hands/Recognition Ceremony.

Please review the OIG Stars Recognition Program Guidelines and the Lunch and Learn presentation slides OIG Stars Recognition Program for more information.

OIG INTRANET: Recognition

This entry was posted in Recognition. Bookmark the permalink. Edit

People's Choice Award
Award Description: This honorary award recognizes an individual viewed as a model employee by his/her peers.
Basis for Nomination: Contributions such as, but not limited to, the following should be considered for the award:
a. rapport: regularly greets employees and/or engages others in pleasant conversation and shows a genuine interest in his/her co-workers;
b. willingness: regularly volunteers to assist others with tasks, projects, or other activities;
c. upbeat "can do" attitude: regularly displays a positive demeanor, which provides a good example for others and promotes morale;
d. displays interpersonal or technical skills which are recognized and well respected throughout the OIG.
e. humor: shares light-hearted, professionally acceptable humor, which enhances the workplace environment and promotes espirit de corp.

MORE IDEAS

- You said…. We did
  - Circling back to let employees know that their feedback/comments resulted in change
- Employee Council:
  - With representatives from every OIG component
  - A charter/policy - communications, diversity and inclusion, policies
  - With a senior level champion
- Blogs/Video Segments and Virtual Town Halls
- Step competition
- Red Rover Initiative
  - An employee shadowing/detail program between divisions

CHALLENGES & OBSTACLES

- Sustainability
  - Who will Champion Internal Communications?
    - Lead by a true believer with passion/energy for the program
    - Must include ongoing support from the top - at HQ and in the regions
- Budget/Resources
- Enhancing the Culture
- Overcoming Silos and "Need to Know" Philosophy

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SUMMARY

- Information should be shared in as many mediums as possible
  - To reach the most people
- Transparency is important and curtails speculation
  - Providing consistent information to the entire workforce is important
  - Responding to recommendations and ideas is important
- Employees want to
  - Learn about the people behind the mission and the success
  - Know that others recognize/appreciate what they are doing
  - Understand what other divisions/people are doing and how it connects to them
- Pictures and Human Interest make people feel connected
  - To each other, and to the organization
  - Building relationships encourages collaboration

24

The Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act

Athena Jones
HUD OIG

Fara Damelin
NSF OIG

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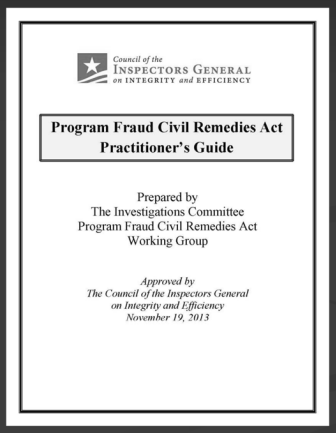
Goals of this Training

Familiarize DHS OIG personnel with The Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act of 1986 (PFCRA)

- Overview
- History
- Basic Principles
- PFCRA Case Elements
- PFCRA Procedures
- Application

2

Resource for Forms and Other Guidance



Council of the Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency

Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act Practitioner's Guide

Prepared by
The Investigations Committee
Program Fraud Civil Remedies Act
Working Group

Approved by
The Council of the Inspectors General
on Integrity and Efficiency
November 19, 2013

PFCRA

- **Overview**
- History
- Basic Principles
- PFCRA Case Elements
- PFCRA Procedures
- Application

What's It All About?

PFCRA is an administrative remedy designed to ensure Federal agencies have redress for smaller false and fraudulent claims not selected for enforcement litigation by the Department of Justice.

5

PFCRA Provisions
31 U.S.C. §§ 3801 *et seq*.

- Provide Federal executive branch agencies with an administrative remedy for small-dollar fraud cases for false claims and statements not selected for DOJ enforcement
- Liability of accused party is determined during administrative proceedings
- Presiding official is ALJ or other qualified individuals authorized under PFCRA

6

PFCRA

- Overview
- **History**
- Basic Principles
- PFCRA Case Elements
- PFCRA Procedures
- Application

7

PFCRA - History



- Passed in 1986 – Mini False Claims Act (Claims less than $150,000).
- 1991 GAO Report – PFCRAs not used extensively – 41 Cases to DOJ between 1986 – 1990.
- 2012 GAO Report – 141 Cases to DOJ between 2006 – 2010 (96% from HUD).
- FY 2011-2013 – nearly $5.4 million collected by HUD.

8

PFCRA

- Overview
- History
- **Basic Principles**
- PFCRA Case Elements
- PFCRA Procedures
- Application

9

Cause for Liability

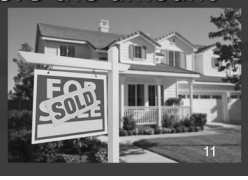
- Making, presenting, submitting, or causing to be made, presented or submitted to the Government or the recipient of the Government's largess;
- A False Claim or a False Statement; and
- Knowing or having reason to know that the claim or statement is false.

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False Claim

- A request for property or services, which is supported by a statement that is:
  - false, fictitious, or fraudulent;
  - is supported by a material fact that is false, fictitious, or fraudulent; and/or
  - omits a material fact that the maker has a duty to include.
- Damages: up to $5,000, plus double the amount of the claim.





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Note on Penalties

- This presentation uses the current $5,500 DHS Penalty. 6 C.F.R. § 13.3. Other agencies use different penalty amounts.
- The Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 (28 U.S.C. § 2461 note) provides penalty adjustment once every four years by Federal Register notice.

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False Statement

- A statement that includes a material fact that is false, fictitious, or fraudulent; or omits a material fact that the maker has a duty to include.
- The statement is accompanied by a certification or affirmation of truthfulness.
- Damages: up to $5,000.

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Examples of False Claims

- Invoice
- Request for Reimbursement
- SBIR/STTR Grants
- Payroll
- Small Business Contract Invoices from Ineligible Businesses
- Other Grant Claims







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Examples of False Statements

- False Owner's or Contractor's Cost Certification
- False Financial Statement
- False Accounting Report
- False Certifications Required by Program Regulation or Handbook
- False Property Inspection Report

True	False
☐	☑

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Knowledge Requirement

- Actual Knowledge;
- Deliberate Ignorance (affirmatively hides from the truth); or
- Reckless Disregard (gross negligence; does not care what the truth is).



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Remedies for False Claims

- Civil Penalty of up to $5,000 for each false claim, including false statement that causes claim to be paid
- Assessment of double the amount of paid claim
- Recovery limited to claims of $150,000 or less

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Remedies for False Statements

- Civil Penalty of up to $5,000 for <u>each</u> false statement



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PFCRA

- Overview
- History
- Basic Principles
- **PFCRA Case Elements**
- PFCRA Procedures
- Application

19

Statutory Elements

- Impose civil penalties and assessments for:
  - Persons
  - Make, Submit or Present or,
  - Cause to Be Made, Submitted or Presented
  - False Fictitious or Fraudulent
  - Claims or Statements
  - They Knew or Had Reason to Know were False
  - To Federal Authorities or their agents.

6 Year Statute of Limitations.

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"Person"

- Individual
- Partnership
- Corporation
- Association
- Private Organization
- Entity

21

Make, Submit or Present . . .

Some affirmative action required.

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Cause to Be Made, Submitted or Presented

A liable party does not need to submit the claim personally. PFCRA liability may arise where a person submits false documents that cause a program participant to submit a false claim.

23

False, Fictitious or Fraudulent

As the terms indicate, the information or submission cannot be true.

**Use caution with cases that involve certifications of intent or future actions.

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Statement

- Representation, certification, affirmation document or other submission
- Made:
  - With respect to a claim
  - With respect to eligibility for contracts, grants, loans or benefits
- Statement must be accompanied **by express certification** of truthfulness or accuracy
- No need to show that any claim was paid

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PFCRA

- Overview
- History
- Basic Principles
- PFCRA Case Elements
- **PFCRA Procedures**
- Application

26

Procedure

- There must be an investigative report referred by the DHS Office of Inspector General.
- OIG report is submitted to the Reviewing Official (General Counsel of DHS or the General Counsel's designee).
- Department of Justice must approve all PFCRA actions.
- Cases are tried in front of Administrative Law Judges, appointed pursuant to 5 U.S.C. Sec. 3105 or detailed to DHS pursuant to 5 U.SC. Sec. 3344.

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OIG Report

- Presents findings and conclusions of investigation/audit to Reviewing Official.
- Should contain all evidence necessary to assess the proposed action.
- Should contain contact information for an investigating agent/auditor.

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Shortcut – The Practitioner's Guide has forms.

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Reviewing Official

- Assesses whether the evidence supports a finding of liability under the PFCRA
- If appropriate, drafts a request for authorization to proceed with a PFCRA
- Determines whether there is a reasonable prospect of collecting an appropriate amount of penalties and assessments

30

Request for PFCRA Authorization from DHS

1. Reasons for the referral of the allegations
2. Statement specifying the evidence
3. Description and number of claims, statements, or penalties at issue
4. Value of property or services requested or demanded
5. Any relevant exculpatory or mitigating circumstances
6. Statement regarding reasonable prospect of collecting an appropriate amount of penalties and assessments

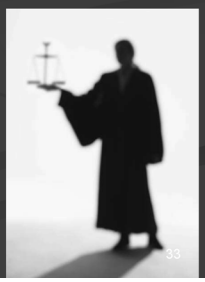
31

Shortcut – The Practitioner's Guide has forms.

32

After DOJ Approval:

Litigate the Case before Administrative Law Judge



33

Shortcut – The Practitioner's Guide has forms.

34

Judicial Review

- Appeal lies with District Courts within 60 days of final Agency decision
- Respondent must exhaust administrative appeals
- ALJ's factual findings are conclusive unless unsupported by substantial evidence
- Courts have jurisdiction to affirm, modify, remand for further consideration, or set aside, in whole or in part, the ALJ decision
- District Court can enter judgment in Government's favor

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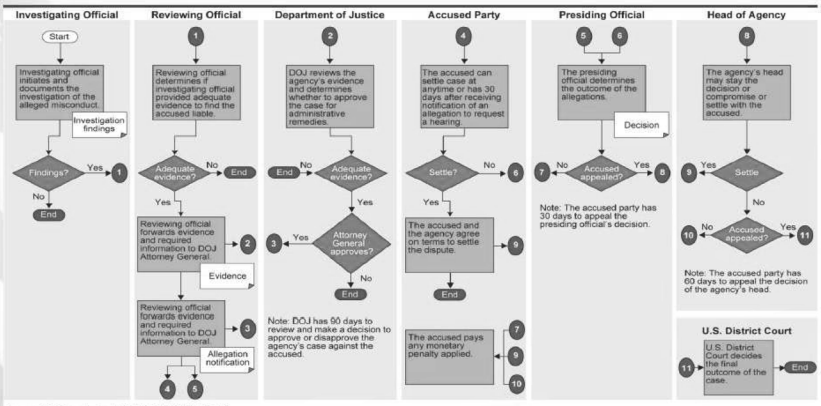
Collection of PFCRA ALJ Judgments

- If affirmative collection necessary, DOJ must file a civil action to have judgment entered in Federal court
- Liability and the determination of amounts of penalties and assessments is not subject to review in a collection action
- 3-year statute of limitations on collection actions

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GAO
Accountability * Integrity * Reliability

Background: PFCRA Process



Source: GAO analysis of 31 U.S.C. § 3801-3812.

Remember – The Practitioner's Guide has forms that fit this process.

PFCRA

- Overview
- History
- Basic Principles
- PFCRA Case Elements
- PFCRA Procedures
- **Application**

39

Hypothetical #1

- Small Business receives ten $100,000 SBIR Phase 1 grants to develop projects related to rechargeable batteries.
- All projects were previously submitted to, and funded by, SBIR grants at other agencies (the PI is big on recycling).

40

Hypothetical #1 Results

- DHS can sue the business (and possibly the individuals) for a $50,000 civil penalty (ten claims at $5,000) and $2,000,000 (double the claimed amount) in assessments.
- Maximum Case Value: $2,050,000.

41

Example #1

- Landlord rented a house to his mother and brother using HUD's Housing Assistance Payment (HAP) program. HAP payments cover only a portion of the rent. Landlord never collected the tenant's share but did get $23,603.00 from 43 HAP payments. (Other payments out of statute.)
- Landlord certified in program documents that no family member living in the house had an ownership interest in the unit. Landlord knew his mother was a partial owner of the house. Mother also affirmed in program documents that she did not own any real estate.

Result?

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Result, Example 1

- Landlord and mother jointly and severally liable for $283,706.
  - $236,500 in penalties ($5,500 X 43).
  - $47,206 assessment ($23,603 X 2).
- Mother separately liable for an additional $18,000 in penalties ($3,000 for 6 false statements).
- Case involved Secretarial appeal.

43

Example #2

- Husband and wife submitted a $126,510 claim the HUD-funded Road Home Homeowner Assistance grant program. This program helped homeowners recover from Hurricane Katrina.
- The couple, however, did not own the home at the time Katrina hit. They submitted a false affidavit to get the grant.

Result?

44

Result, Example #2

- Husband and wife jointly and severally liable for $260,520.
  - $253,020 assessment ($126,510 X 2)
  - $7,500 in penalties (HUD has adjusted its penalties for inflation).
- Default Judgment.

45

Identifying Cases

- Program Areas
  - Funds Given to Localities
  - Contracts – Set-Aside or Performance Issues
  - Grants
  - Employee Actions
- Collateral Actions
  - Convictions
  - Declinations
- Potentially Liable Parties
  - Direct Participants
  - Vicarious Liability

46



Conclusion

47

Facilitating PFCRA Use at DHS

- Use after successful criminal prosecution
- DHS personnel cases: T&A, purchase and travel card abuse
- Close coordination between offices (DHS OIG, DHS OGC and DOJ Civil Fraud
- Grant and procurement fraud
- Standard referral templates valuable
- High deterrent effect if well publicized
- Most contracts fall within PFCRA thresholds

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HOW TO LEARN MORE

- Peruse the PFCRA Practitioner's Guide
  - A step by step handbook for handling PFCRA cases
- Attend CIGIE's PFCRA Working Group Meetings
  - Coordinated and Hosted by SBA OIG
- November 6, 2014, Training

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Questions & Answer

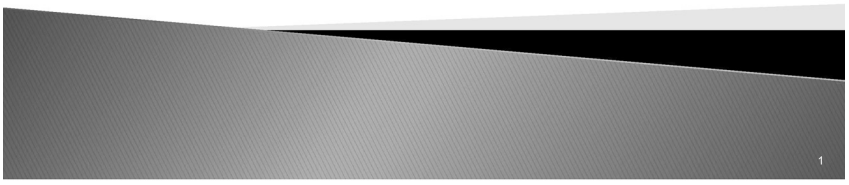


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NSF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE UPDATE –2012

Fara Damelin
Investigative Attorney

SRA International, 2012 Annual Meeting
October 2, 2012



What is an Office of Inspector General?

- Each federal agency has independent OIG
- OIG missions:
  - Prevent and detect waste, fraud, and abuse
  - Promote economy, effectiveness, efficiency
  - Keep agency **head** and Congress fully and currently informed
- OIG Tools To Meet Mission Goals:
  - Investigations
  - Audits



BACKGROUND: NSF OIG INVESTIGATIONS

- **Who are we?**
  - Special agents (Federal Law Enforcement Officers)
  - Investigative Attorneys
  - Investigative Scientists
  - Analysts
- **How are investigations initiated?**
  - Reactive
  - Proactive
- **What types of Investigations?**
  - Civil/Criminal
  - Administrative

3

What Types of Issues do we Investigate?

CIVIL/CRIMINAL

- **Theft/embezzlement**
- **Financial mismanagement**
- **Misuse of grant funds**
- **Conflicts of Interests**

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Research Misconduct:**
  - **Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification**
- **Conflicts of Interests**
- **Merit review violations**

4

HOT TOPIC
SBIR/STTR FRAUD INVESTIGATIONS

- Background &Purpose of SBIR/STTR Programs
- Eligibility Requirements
- Relationship with Universities
- Common Types of Abuse
  - Facilities
  - Primary Employment
  - Overlapping/Duplicative funding
- Investigative Outcomes
  - Indictments for false statements/false claims/theft of federal program funds/mail fraud/wire fraud
  - Government wide suspension and debarment



5

Fraud Investigations
How do Grantees Get in Trouble (Pt. 1)

- **Embezzlement/Theft**
  - Using grant funds to pay for personal mortgage payment, bedroom furniture, vacations, American Idol tickets, and speeding tickets
- **False Statements**
  - Falsely asserting support of a key organization in proposal
  - Falsely asserting collaboration with a foreign scientist that never happened
  - Falsely certifying eligibility requirements for award program
  - Falsely certifying required matching funds (cost-sharing)
  - False FFR reporting



6

Fraud Investigations: How Do Grantees Get In Trouble?(Pt II)

- **FALSE CLAIMS**
  - Claiming reimbursement for grant funds not spent on funded project
  - Grantee-approved no cost extension just to spend remaining grant funds
  - Drawing down federal funds for unallowable expenses
  - False Interim Reports and Milestone Charts in SBIR/STTR Phase II Awards
- **MISMANAGEMENT OF FEDERAL FUNDS**
  - Co-mingling federal and non-federal funds
  - Transferring costs from overdrawn project accounts
  - Charging one grant for expenditures of another
  - Failing to know, follow, or care about applicable rules
  - Expending funds after award expiration date

7

Possible Outcomes of Civil/Criminal Investigations

- **Civil Action**
  - Civil False Claims Act
    - Treble damages
- **Criminal Action (Prosecution)**
  - Criminal False Claims/False Statements
  - Theft/Embezzlement
  - Mail/Wire Fraud
  - Conspiracy
- **Administrative Action**
  - Suspension/termination of current NSF awards
  - Government-wide suspension/debarment

8

HOT TOPIC: Government-wide Suspensions and Debarments

- Purpose: To protect federal funds from those who are not "presently responsible"
- Consequences:
  - Central GSA Excluded Parties List
  - Applies to all prospective grants and contracts over $25,000
  - If one agency imposes, affects funding from ALL federal agencies
- Recent Trend:
  - Fact-based suspensions imposed during ongoing investigations



9

HOW TO AVOID TROUBLE:

- Read and know the applicable grant conditions, rules and regulations when receiving federal grant funds:
  - Provide and Document Training (Mandatory)
- Maintain (during, not after the fact) adequate documentation to support all expenditures, including cost share
- Ensure your financial reporting to NSF matches your financial records
- Do not expend award funds post-expiration or for purposes unrelated to the award
- Do not provide inaccurate information or false certifications to Grantee institution or Federal Agency



10

Top 10 Things You Don't Want To Say To An OIG Investigator

1. Do you think I have time to read all of your rules?
2. Time and Effort Policy? Well, we don't actually have one of those yet.
3. Sorry, I can't get you the records; they are being archived in a dangerous building.
4. Wow..Really? No! Entertainment can't be charged to federal awards? Is a trip to Universal Studios considered entertainment?
5. The movie outing to see Bad Boys 2 was sort of cultural excursion.



11

Top 10 Things You Don't Want To Say To An OIG Investigator

6. Wow, I had no idea our records were such a mess.
7. I probably threw out the COI disclosure form…I throw out anything that looks bureaucratic.
8. Chicken Dinner Analogy: which goes…
9. I signed the purchase requisition because I saw that everyone else signed too.
10. No, I haven't received any formal training about federal grants management. BUT I have received "on the job" training.



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Number 11:
But…we did the work!!!

- Very common defense to grant fraud cases
- Problem Scenario: If grantee receives $1 million to carry out a funded proposal, carries out the work for $500,000, and spends the full amount of the award….
- We still need to know where the other $500,000 went….AND
- The Grantee can still be charged for false claims associated with the other $ ½ million

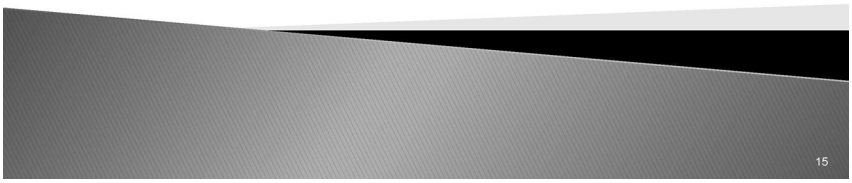


NOTE ON EMAIL COMMUNICATIONS

- Sometimes it is not what a grantee/PI says, but instead, what the grantee/PI writes, that could cause some trouble.
- Examples….



CASE STUDIES



HOT OFF THE PRESS
MOST RECENT CASES

- Former School Superintendant Pled Guilty to Mail Fraud
  - For submitting multiple duplicate travel reimbursements totaling $59,882 and submitting false student test scores to receive fraudulent salary payments from research grants
  - 10 months confinement, 3 years parole
  - $325,000 restitution
- University Assistant Dean Pled Guilty to False Statements
  - For making false statements resulting in improper salary payments
  - 5 years supervised probation, ordered not to work in education
- University Program Coordinator Pled Guilty to Fraud
  - For using P-card to purchase gift cards, diamond ring, groceries, phone/cable and charged to NSF grants: $173,000 diverted for personal use
  - 10 years prison/10 years supervised probation, after withdrawing initial plea
  - $125,000 restitution
- University Accountant Pled Guilty to Mail Fraud and Theft
  - For using P-card to make 3800 personal vendor purchases charged to NSF grants
  - $316,000 diverted for personal use, and created false invoices
  - 32 months prison/3 years probation, $316,000 restitution



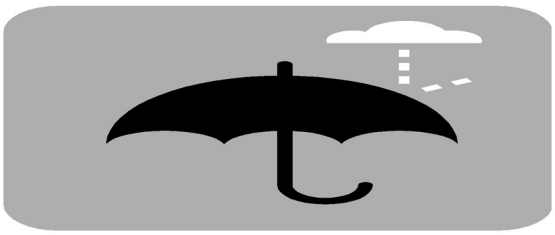
HOT OFF THE PRESS
MORE RECENT CASES

- Former PI from University Pled Guilty to Theft of Federal Funds
  - For diverting federal grant funds for personal travel, billing as business conferences and submitting false registrations and receipts
  - Sentenced to restitution of $19,000, $5,000 fine and one year supervised probation
- School District Returns $79,000 to NSF
  - For submitting false certifications in violation of Civil FCA
  - Mandatory 5-year compliance plan
- University Returns $477,000 to NSF in COI Case
  - Because university employee/PI improperly subcontracted out work on NSF grant to company in which he had 25% interest
- STTR Grantee Indicted for False Claims
  - For falsely certifying primary employment and diverting $100,000 grant funds to pay balances on personal credit cards
  - PENDING
- Former PI Indicted for Theft and Mail Fraud: PENDING

17

Key to Prevention?

Compliance Programs



Government

Institution/University

Researcher

18

Compliance Program

A SYSTEM OF RESPONSIBLE ADMINISTRATIVE, FINANCIAL AND RESEARCH MANAGEMENT AND OVERSIGHT, CREATING AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH EMPLOYEES CAN OPERATE WITH INTEGRITY

Compliance Programs can be implemented voluntarily or mandated as part of negotiated resolution

Compliance Programs Require:

- **Leadership** – commitment to do the right thing
- **Management** – ethical environment
  - Focus on high risk areas
  - Provide systematic monitoring, auditing, oversight
- **Training** – Communicate facts and expectations
- **Action** – Early detection and correction problems
- **Reporting** – Relay information regarding wrongdoing

19

Benefits of Compliance Programs

- Demonstrates commitment to ethical conduct
- Ensures Accountability
- Minimizes or detects criminal conduct
- Encourages reporting
- Creates awareness through training
- Prevents improper expenditures; improves grant administration
- May help avoid the filing of legal actions
- Mitigation, e.g., may reduce penalty or administrative actions

20

Elements of an Effective Compliance Program

1. Reasonable Compliance Standards and Procedures
2. Specific High-Level Personnel Responsible
3. Due Care in Assignments with Substantial Discretionary Authority
4. Effective Communication of Standards and Procedures
5. Establish Monitoring and Auditing Systems and Reporting Systems (whistleblowing without fear of retaliation)
6. Consistent Enforcement of Standards
7. Respond Appropriately to the Offense (reporting to law enforcement, modify program, prevention)

* Federal Sentencing Guidelines U.S.S.G. 8B2.5(f) & 8D1.4(c)(1) (11/1/04)



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How Compliance Programs Are Developed

VOLUNTARY

- Trend: many universities voluntarily creating compliance programs because they recognize benefits and because the right thing to do!
- CoGR June 2005 Guidance
  - Encouraging voluntary compliance programs as means for institutions to meet compliance obligations



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And "Not So Voluntary"

Trend: DOJ imposes mandated compliance plans into settlements with grantees for:

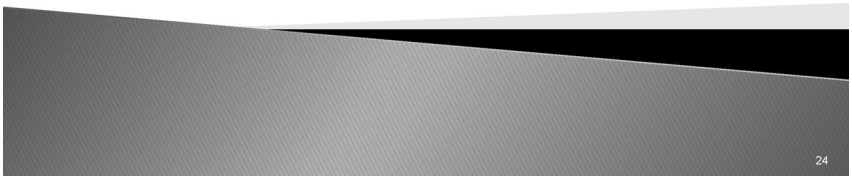
- Overcharging IDC
- Misusing federal grant funds
- Creating false cost-share certifications
- Double billing
- Maintaining false time and effort reports
- Commingling Federal and non-Federal funds, failing to scrub for allowable expenses

These mandatory compliance plans regularly span 3-5 years, require annual compliance audits, and provide monitoring by federal agency.



23

American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009:ARRA



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SPECIAL ARRA REQUIREMENTS

➢Reports:
Lots of reports, lots of data: Tell the truth!

➢You must report to OIG "any credible evidence" of wrongdoing.

➢ Whistleblower protections:
- ➢Post notices for employees about their rights.
- ➢Do not retaliate.
- ➢OIG investigates allegations of retaliation.

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QUESTIONS



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Want to Learn More?

Surf Our Website:
www.nsf.gov/oig

NSF OIG Brochures
NSF OIG Semiannual Reports
NSF OIG Outreach Presentations
NSF OIG Case Closeouts



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Contact Information

Confidential Communications

E-mail: oig@nsf.gov
Mail: NSF—ATTN: OIG HOTLINE
4201 Wilson Boulevard; II-705
Arlington, VA. 22230

Anonymous Communications: Hotline:1-800-428-2189
www.nsf.gov click on IG Hotline

- **Fara Damelin—fdamelin@nsf.gov; 703/292-8873**

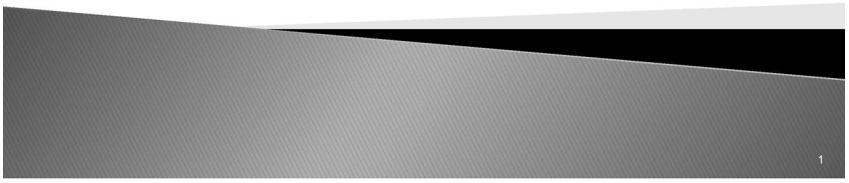


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NSF OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL INVESTIGATIVE UPDATE -2015

Fara Damelin
Director, Office of Investigations Legal Division

SRA International, 2015 Annual Meeting
October 21, 2015



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- OIG Tools To Meet Mission Goals:
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  - Audits



BACKGROUND: NSF OIG INVESTIGATIONS

- **Who are we?**
  - Special agents (Federal Law Enforcement Officers)
  - Investigative Attorneys
  - Investigative Scientists
  - Analysts
- **How are investigations initiated?**
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  - Proactive
- **What types of Investigations?**
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- **Theft/embezzlement**
- **Financial mismanagement**
- **Misuse of grant funds**
- **Conflicts of Interests**
- **Obstruction**

ADMINISTRATIVE

- **Research Misconduct:**
  - **Plagiarism, Fabrication, Falsification**
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- **Merit review violations**

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    - Treble damages
- **Criminal Action (Prosecution)**
  - Criminal False Claims/False Statements
  - Theft/Embezzlement
  - Mail/Wire Fraud
  - Conspiracy
  - Obstruction (Audits and Investigations)
- **Administrative Action**
  - Suspension/termination of current NSF awards
  - Government-wide suspension/debarment

5

Fraud Investigations: How do Universities Get Into Trouble

- **Embezzlement/Theft**
- **False Statements/False Claims**
- **Mismanagement of Federal Funds**
- **Failure to Train Personnel in Federal Grant Requirements**
- **Lack of Procedures and Processes to Hold Personnel Accountable**
- **Not Knowing What Their Employees Are Involved In**

6

Hot Topics for University Grantees

- Uniform Guidance
  - Mandatory Disclosures
  - Certifications
- SBIR/STTR Awards
- Dual Employment
- Expenditure Sign Offs
- Cost Transfers
- Conflicts of Commitments
- Current and Pending Support



7

Uniform Guidance

- Consolidation of multiple OMB Circulars and Codified Regulations, 2 CFR Part 200
- Effective December 26, 2014
- Learn what's new and not so new
- OIG Community Involvement
  - Certifications
  - Mandatory Disclosure
    - Was required already for contracts
    - Now required for grants, too



8

§ 200.113 Mandatory disclosures

The non-Federal entity or applicant for a Federal award must disclose, in a timely manner, in writing to the Federal awarding agency or pass-through entity all violations of Federal criminal law involving fraud, bribery, or gratuity violations potentially affecting the Federal award. Failure to make required disclosures can result in any of the remedies described in § 200.338 Remedies for noncompliance, including suspension or debarment. (See also 2 CFR Part 180 and 31 U.S.C. 3321).

---

§ 200.415 Required Certifications

"By signing this report, I certify to the best of my knowledge and belief that the report is true, complete, and accurate, and the expenditures, disbursements and cash receipts are for the purposes and objectives set forth in the terms and conditions of the Federal award. I am aware that any false, fictitious, or fraudulent information, or the omission of any material fact, may subject me to criminal, civil or administrative penalties for fraud, false statements, false claims or otherwise. (U.S. Code Title 18, Section 1001 and Title 31, Sections 3729-3730 and 3801-3812)."

University as a Federal Subcontractor:

- Do you request and require that the prime award be provided to you for your file?
- Do you review that file?
  - Personnel
  - Facilities
  - Budget
- Do you report nonpayment of subcontracts to federal OIGs?
- Do you search SAM to determine if you are working with Excluded Party?

11

SBIR/STTR Awards: What Universities Need to Know

1. A PI on an SBIR/STTR award must be "primarily employed" by the company that receives the federal funds
2. An STTR award includes a mandatory subcontract to University Partners, without which the prime award could not be made
3. Serving as a PI on an SBIR/STTR award requires a time commitment
4. Potential conflicts of interest must be managed
5. The university must know of all current and pending support for PIs applying for federal funds through the university
6. Instances where PIs on SBIR/STTR awards wrongfully perform work on SBIR/STTR awards at university labs with university equipment
7. Instances where universities not paid for subcontract work, or all work done by university employees or students
8. Proactive Idea: Search SBIR.Gov, and see who is being funded in your area

12

Dual Employment and Other Conflicts

- What are your Conflict of Commitment Reporting Requirements?
  - Do you have mandatory reporting requirements? Affirmative reporting even if nothing to report?
  - What happens if employees don't file mandatory reports? Consequences?
- Do any of your PI's have dual appointments as tenured faculty at two institutions at the same time?
  - Multiple investigations involved this scheme
  - Dual employment not reported to universities
  - Dual employment not on resumes submitted with federal grant proposals
- Are any of your personnel subcontracting out to family members or using company vendors that they own, or are owned by their immediate family members?



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Who is Signing Off on What, and Why?

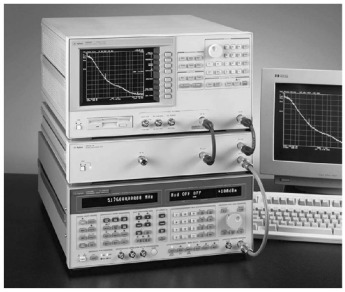
- Fraud happens
- "I signed off on it because Joe did," is not going to prevent or catch fraud
- Multiple Investigations reveal a lack of true scrutiny for purchases made with grant funds and lack of training
- Similar issues posed with financial reporting to agencies
  - There are certifications
  - Who is ensuring the accuracy of what is being reported, and what funds are being drawn down?



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NSF Award Budget includes the purchase of Engineering Equipment, but High End Cameras purchased instead:

Agilent Technologies
Signal Analyzer
$67,970



Dodd Camera and Video
Sinar P3 Camera + accessories
$44,346



Cost Transfers, Effort Reporting, Financial Reports

- What are your current policies?
- Are they being followed?
- Do you have source documentation to support your expenditures charged to federal awards, to include time and effort?
- Who is responsible for the accuracy of reports made to the federal government?

What Are You Reporting Out to the Govt? And How Accurate Is It?

- Investigation of a Cooperative agreement, totaling $2,494,078
- Initial response: $2,201,728
- During site visit: $2,533,078
- Response to IG subpoena: $2,494,078

17

HOT OFF THE PRESS MOST RECENT CASES

- **University to pay $2.7 Million for Failing to Account for Federal Research Funds**
- **University Professor Convicted in Scheme to Defraud NSF and for Obtaining Kickbacks from Student Stipends**
- **Former Professor Pleads Guilty in $3 Million Federal Research Grant Fraud Case**
- **Former University Professor Pleads Guilty to False Statements**
- **University Returns Money for Misuse of Federal Subcontract Funds**
- **Non-Profit Grantee to return funds for misuse of NSF grant funds**

18

Top 10 (or 12) Things You Don't Want To Say To An OIG Investigator

1. Do you think I have time to read all of your rules?
2. We don't actually have any written policies about the expenditure of federal grant funds.
3. Sorry, I can't get you the records; they are being archived in a dangerous building.
4. Wow..Really? Entertainment can't be charged to federal awards?
5. If I have to go back and create cost share records now, that's what I'll do!
6. I had no idea our records were such a mess.



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7. Chicken Dinner Analogy: which goes…
8. I signed the purchase requisition because I saw that everyone else signed too.
9. No, I haven't received any formal training about federal grants management. BUT I have received "on the job" training.
10. If you were going to rely on my timesheets, you'd have a pretty good case.
11. But what are you complaining about…we did the work!



20

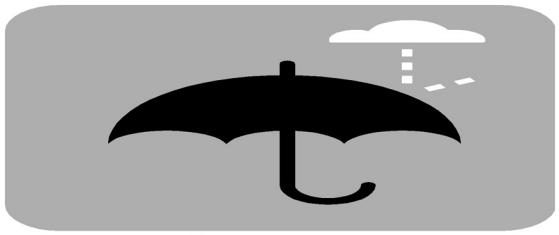
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4. Effective Communication of Standards and Procedures
5. Establish Monitoring and Auditing Systems and Reporting Systems (whistleblowing without fear of retaliation)
6. Consistent Enforcement of Standards
7. Respond Appropriately to the Offense (reporting to law enforcement, modify program, prevention)

* Federal Sentencing Guidelines U.S.S.G. 8B2.5(f) & 8D1.4(c)(1) (11/1/04)



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Whistleblower Protection Ombudsman

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QUESTIONS







The CHAIR. Thank you, Ms. Damelin. I am going to go to first something the Ranking Member brought up, but I agree. This is a time in which we need discourse and competition. And discourse

can't have a few voices. Have to have many voices. And I am very concerned about the decline of local news.

One of the things that I believe the FCC should be taking action on is reopening the record as it relates to streaming media services who are now becoming a bigger and bigger player in delivering content.

And the downside of that is that if we don't have the structures in place to make sure that they get a competitive price for the product that they offer, which I hope at some point in time our committee will be able to turn to these larger issues about the changing landscape of media and some of the critical issues that we face overall.

But in 2014, the FCC started a proceeding to examine this issue, but has been stalled for nearly a decade. So today I am sending a letter to Commissioner Rosenworcel to refresh the record on this issue and to say that streaming media services should bargain in good faith, just as we have had to put good faith in other parts of the media landscape to make sure that we are adhering to the types of things that will give them a fair value for their content.

So, I wanted to ask all, the current Commissioners and the nominee, if you support refreshing the record on this and taking a look at how we can make sure that local broadcasters get fair value for the content they are providing as we change over to a streaming media landscape.

Mr. STARKS. Well, thank you for the question, Chairwoman. You know, I think it is absolutely true that the way we watch TV has changed. Online streaming services have—introduced.

They are more competitive, have brought competition to the landscape here, more eyeballs than ever—all sort going into streaming. I take your point. Eager to work with you that this is part of the record that we have not had since 2014.

Eager to work with my colleagues on seeing if there is a way that we can understand. There is no easy fix here from the 1984 Cable Act, the 1992 Cable Act. They don't in particular envision streaming, but asking questions and trying to figure out if we can help in this dynamic media space, I think makes good sense.

The CHAIR. Well, my colleague, Senator Grassley, sent a letter to the Chair of the Commission, and I have seen that response. So, I guess what I am asking you if you think you should relook at this issue?

Mr. STARKS. I think it is worth reopening.

The CHAIR. Thank you. Thank you. Mr. Carr.

Mr. CARR. Senator, yes. I am happy to take more information on this issue.

The CHAIR. Do you think that you should reopen this and look at it?

Mr. CARR. If the Chair, yes, wants to re-issue that docket and refresh the record, I am happy to take a look at that.

The CHAIR. Well, I am definitely sending a letter to the Chair asking that that happen. As I mentioned, Senator Grassley sent a previous letter that basically—I think, look, the complexity of this issue is there, but that—we can't have an FCC that is stalled over the complexity.

We need to resolve this issue. I think Seattle or Dallas or any other of our Denver stations deserve to have a fair value for their media content. I think in a lot of ways, local journal journalism is what people still trust today.

And yet if they are undercut in the negotiations, just as we had to force in Stellar and other places, good faith negotiations, I think we should do that as well here. Ms. Gomez, do you have a comment on this?

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes, thank you, Senator. I agree with you. Local broadcasting is so important. It is where citizens learn about the news, about emergencies, and the economic model is getting more and more challenging giving the changes in the marketplace.

So, if confirmed, I would certainly want to work with you, with the Committee to understand this issue and delve into these—the causations and what the Commission can do given the current law.

The CHAIR. So certainly, support the Commission's restored auction authority for spectrum. And I think Federal agencies need to figure out how to work together so that we don't have conflicts here.

I do support the House's movement toward this legislation that I hope we will consider here too as well. Ms. Gomez, this is a particular area of expertise for you. Where do you think we should be going as a nation in trying to free up more spectrum and the conflicts that have—you know, I certainly want our NASA and NOAA agencies to be supported, not ignored.

What do you see as the process here for us getting more expansive policy on spectrum?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator—I mean, Chairwoman. As you know, I have extensive experience working at both NTIA and at the FCC on spectrum matters. That gives me a unique viewpoint into the commercial needs for spectrum to be the lifeblood of innovation, as well as the need of Federal agencies to conduct their missions in a successful manner, they are important missions.

I think it is incumbent on the NTIA and the FCC to always be looking at new ways and new spectrum for future uses. It can be a long term process, so they need to work together. They need to identify spectrum, both on the commercial side and on the Federal side, to study for possible sharing or repurposing in order to enable innovation.

The CHAIR. Do you think the international community is ahead of us on sharing?

Ms. GOMEZ. That is a very good question. The U.S. has been a leader in terms of spectrum management and sharing. I think that maintaining that leadership means that we have to continue to move forward to identify spectrum for all uses.

The CHAIR. Thank you. We have a long list of people who want to ask questions today. So, Ms. Damelin, I am going to submit something for the record for you, but clearly care a lot about the oversight of this agencies.

And I like the DNA. I can imagine being the Inspector General for the Department of Treasury, so I am sure your dad came home with lots of stories. But this is about the management of a resource for our nation, and the bright light in oversight at a time when equity, as we outlined in our all of our opening statements, is critical

for Americans' competitiveness. But I will submit that for the record. Senator Cruz, Ranking Member Cruz.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Madam Chair. The 2021 infrastructure law required the FCC to write rules, "preventing digital discrimination of broadband access based on income level, race, ethnicity, color, religion, or national origin."

Of course, discrimination against minority, female, or other customers was already illegal, and there was no credible evidence that broadband companies were discriminating against any protected class.

Now, the infrastructure law did not require affirmative action, nor did it require race-based pricing. But that, unfortunately, is how the FCC is approaching this rulemaking. It seems premised on the idea that broadband companies don't want to make money from consumers.

First, it was the Biden Administration declaring that highways were racist. Now it's the Biden FCC declaring that the Internet is racist. The FCC is specifically considering prohibiting "digital discrimination under a disparate impact standard."

Disparate impact is a fringe liberal theory that is not the same thing as discrimination. Far from it. Instead, it deems racist and bigots any individuals or businesses that make decisions that happen to produce statistical differences in outcomes among demographic groups, regardless of whether there is a discriminatory motive.

The FCC isn't trying to stamp out actual discrimination. What is really motivating the Commission is creating a private right of action to empower trial lawyers and activists states like New York and California to reap millions and millions of dollars in bogus, so called "disparate impact claims."

If a broadband provider doesn't build out Cadillac level service to a neighborhood, the FCC and its trial lawyer friends could swoop in and sue, saddling providers with costly litigation, driving up the cost of broadband for all consumers, and sullying the reputation of these companies.

Meanwhile, the Supreme Court has made it very clear that agencies can't expand the scope of a statute to impose disparate impact liability to create new opportunities for trial lawyers to harass private companies. I want to clarify how our nominees view, "digital discrimination." Mr. Carr, do you think it is racist if a company decides to build fiber to a middle class suburb before building it out to a statistically lower income area?

Mr. CARR. No, Senator.

Senator CRUZ. Mr. Starks and Ms. Gomez, do you agree with Mr. Carr? Mr. Starks.

Mr. CARR. I would agree with that, yes.

Senator CRUZ. Ms. Gomez.

The CHAIR. Yes, Senator.

Senator CRUZ. OK. Would you also agree that if a company is going to be held liable for discrimination, potentially to the tune of millions upon millions of dollars based on decisions it has made, that there should be clear evidence of discriminatory motive or intent? Mr. Carr.

Mr. CARR. Yes, Senator. I think you need something more than your effect. And just a quick example. You have two adjacent neighborhoods. We have seen this on our record. L.A. County and L.A. City. One had 500 small cells go up, artificial line, the next one had zero.

Why in that circumstance, it was because of the regulatory regime that the two governments put in case—put in place. So, if you are simply looking at effect and nothing more, I think you would get a misleading view of what happened in that instance and perhaps others.

Senator CRUZ. Mr. Starks.

Mr. STARKS. I would say this, that the digital discrimination item is being considered by the FCC right now. The record is being developed right now. One of the open questions is very much what is the enforcement capacity that the FCC is going to take under this item. We will closely follow the law, but this is very much under consideration right now.

Senator CRUZ. Yes. I want to make sure I understand your answer. Do you believe it is necessary to demonstrate discriminatory motive or intent in order to find someone liable for discrimination?

Mr. STARKS. What I am saying is one of the things that we are considering is whether there is a disparate impact, disparate treatment, versus an intent based standard that is going to be the threshold that we are looking at on the digital discrimination.

The, you know, what Congress tasked us with is, "preventing digital discrimination" based upon the six classifications that you mentioned. So, this item is what we are thinking through right now. The questions that you are asking is what we are working on right now.

Senator CRUZ. So, but if I understand your answer correctly, you are saying, no, you don't have to prove motive or intent, that just disparate impact, just statistical analysis can result in millions of dollars being extracted from broadband providers.

Those millions of dollars, by the way, will be paid for by every consumer. The cost of your broadband will go up, as the New York attorney general brings lawsuit after lawsuit after lawsuit, and none of that requires any demonstration of motive or intent. Is that what you are saying?

Mr. STARKS. What I am saying, Senator, is that the actual issue that you are asking me about, the question of disparate impact versus an intent based standard is something we are considering right now. As a matter of policy, in effectuating the law, the digital discrimination——

Senator CRUZ. But you are declining to answer my question. Mr. Carr answered it. You are declining to answer. You are not saying whether intent is required or not. You are just saying we are thinking about it, but you are not giving me an answer.

Mr. STARKS. We are——

Senator CRUZ. It is OK. I am just being clear, you are not giving me an answer.

Mr. STARKS. I understand. We are thinking about this, and the question of enforcement capacity is one of the things that also is before us. And so——

Senator CRUZ. So, Mr. Starks has declined to answer. Ms. Gomez, is intent necessary to find a provider liable for discrimination?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator, for that question. I am aware of the law. I have not actually dug into the record, but if confirmed, I would be happy to do that and work with you on any concerns you may have.

Senator CRUZ. Do you believe intent should be required?

Ms. GOMEZ. I honestly don't know enough about this to be able to——

Senator CRUZ. You spent 30 years in the industry, as you told us in your opening. In 30 years, you had no view on—?

Ms. GOMEZ. Well, I have spent 30 years in the industry doing standard telecom work. The issue of digital discrimination is something I know Congress tasked the Commission with looking at last year, but I need to be able to sit down and dig into the record and look at the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in order to be able to give you an informed answer.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you.

The CHAIR. Thank you. Senator Klobuchar.

STATEMENT OF HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you very much, Chair. And congratulations to all the nominees. Mr. Starks, I guess I will start with you because there is something Senator Cruz and I do agree on, and that is competition.

And as Chair of the Antitrust Subcommittee, I have been focused on the role competition plays in making high speed broadband more affordable, and yet we have 87 million Americans that have only one choice for Internet access.

They don't have a competitor to turn to. If confirmed, what steps would you take as a Commissioner to help promote competition in broadband that would benefit consumers? What have you been doing on this very important issue?

Mr. STARKS. Absolutely. And in particular, thank you for your leadership. You know, I think increased competition, the focus in particular on rural areas everywhere, is a priority of the FCC.

Our mapping efforts and making sure that we have accurate data that informs where dollars are ultimately going to flow, I think all of that is increasingly important in making sure that access gets everywhere. One of the critical issues that we are focusing on, cracking down on the digital divide.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Exactly. Appreciate that. Ms. Gomez enjoyed our brief conversation yesterday—brief only made by me because I had to run in for a vote. With your prior experience, other places like NTIA, could you talk about coordination?

We have—last year, the FCC, NTIA, and USDA, and Treasury announced that they would share information about the collection and reporting of data and metrics about broadband deployment.

This has been through many Administrations that this has been various agencies working on this, including during the Trump Administration. And this follows the passage of a bill that Senator

Wicker and I did, the Broadband Interagency Coordination Act that we passed in December 2020.

Can you talk about how your prior experience will help when you are dealing with understandably different agencies working on this important deployment of broadband?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you very much for that question, Senator, and I very much enjoyed our conversation.

As I mentioned previously, it is true that I was able to work at both the NTIA and the FCC on matters related to deployment of networks and broadband. I hope to be able to bring that experience to bear in understanding how each of the programs works, and coordination is extremely important.

We want to make sure that the funding goes as far as it can to reach those that need it. And so, although there are different programs, they have different roles, a constant conversation among the agencies is important.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK, thank you. Estimated 240 million calls are made to 9–1–1 centers annually. I have long co-chaired the 9–1–1 broadband caucus. This public service is so important, and we have to make sure that we have more updated technology. In many places that doesn't even support text messages, briefly, the importance of upgrading 9–1–1 systems.

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. That is such an important issue. Next Generation 9–1–1 will do much to improve the ability of first responders to reach those that are in need. It is being implemented, but it depends a lot on local conditions and local funding. So absolutely support getting upgrades to the 9–1–1 centers nationwide as fast as possible.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. Mr. Carr, congratulations on your nomination—renomination, I guess. Just quickly, what you see, this major bipartisan infrastructure law, FCC major role.

Just, what do you think that the FCC should be doing to make sure we advance the deployment of broadband? There have been areas, as you know, that get grants, and then I like this bill because we put something in that we would clawback if the phone company doesn't actually or whatever company doesn't build the broadband.

And that is one of my obsessions because we have such a—we have 144,000 households in Minnesota. We are actually doing better than some states, but that lack high speed. Just quickly on that.

Mr. CARR. Well, thank you, Senator, for all your leadership on this. One thing that we can do to help extend the funding that Commerce is putting out is permitting reform.

There is still a lot more that we can do to streamline this so that all of these infrastructure investments go directly into the ground rather than the red tape. And it is particularly important for rural communities.

I had the chance to visit Maurice, Minnesota, a small town, a manufacturing plant there. They have 800 employees, and they told me they would not have located there or stayed there but for broadband. So, when you think about the economic opportunity that comes, if we get this right, it is important.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Exactly. And we just did some permitting reform, as you know, with the debt ceiling agreement, which I supported. And there is hopefully more we can do here. So, thank you for that. Last question, Ms. Damelin, talk about your Federal prior experience to help you to meet the demands of oversight at the FCC, and why it is a more important role than ever?

Ms. DAMELIN. Thank you so much for the question, Senator. So, I have spent the last close to 20 years protecting these types of critical programs from fraud, waste, and abuse, and helping agencies succeed, making sure that the funding gets where it needs to get. And if confirmed, I would very much enjoy the opportunity to do the same for FCC.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Excellent. All right. Thank you, all of you.

The CHAIR. Thank you. I think Senator Thune was going to either be remote or on its way, but I don't think I see him in either place. So, Senator Blackburn.

STATEMENT OF HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN,
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you, Madam Chairman. And congratulations to each of you on your nomination. Thank you for taking time to talk with me, Ms. Damelin.

As we said, it was 0 dark 30, but appreciate your time on the call. I, to Chairman Cantwell, I appreciate that you brought up the loophole for our local broadcasters and that you are doing a letter on that. Rod McDowell, a former Commissioner, has an excellent piece in today's *Wall Street Journal* on this.

And for those of us that value looking at local news and preserving that, I would encourage a reopening of the record and a review of this. 2014 was a long time ago. Streaming services have changed, utilization has accelerated. So, a good point, and I thank you for bringing that up.

The CHAIR. Thank you, Senator Blackburn.

Senator BLACKBURN. And I want to raise another issue that we dealt with previously when I was in the House. In 2017, I introduced legislation under the Congressional Review Act that would deal with—it would block the FCC from dealing with the privacy issue.

And my concern is over this task force. You have launched a privacy and data protection task force to bolster enforcement on digital privacy violations and modernize FCC policies. So, my concern is that this task force may run afoul of the CRA and the provisions in the CRA.

So, I would like to hear from Commissioner Carr, Commissioner Starks, very briefly, what do you expect to come from this task force?

Mr. CARR. Well, first of all, thank you, Senator, for your leadership. You mentioned, I thought the privacy CRA made sense and it helped—in the sense that it helps ensure a uniform privacy approach from disparate rules from the FCC versus the FTC.

So, I would be very worried if these FCC initiatives lead toward a path that were prohibited from the CRA from putting back in place in terms of rules. So, I don't have a lot of details on what

these task forces are designed to do, but we have to be very careful that we respect the CRA as enacted by Congress.

Senator BLACKBURN. That is right. Mr. Starks.

Mr. STARKS. Yes. Thank you for the question, Senator. You know, I don't have any particular details on either. What was announced in the chairwoman speech was the issue of SIM swaps, the issue of data breaches, and the issue of geolocation. But I have no particular insight into what the task force——

Senator BLACKBURN. Well, we will be watching that very closely to be certain that it does not run afoul of the CRA. And so, thank you for your attention on that. Ms. Gomez, I do want to come to you, and thank you for your conversation.

Of course, we discussed the World Radio Conference and the way this is going to deal with international wireless telecommunications. And this is something that is important to us. You have been in preparation since January to be the lead in this conference.

It is vitally important to the U.S. from a position of strength and stability, and I find it very difficult to see how you could handle two very demanding jobs at the same time. And you and I discussed the importance of this role, the importance of U.S. leadership, and I think that it would be difficult for you to step back from that role and us still have what we need to have represented.

I have been very concerned that the U.S. may not be taking an aggressive enough position when it comes to studying more mid-band spectrum at the WRC and looking for how we study these new bands. It is going to be critical. It is vital for 5G. It is vital as we move forward with 6G.

So, I will give you just a couple of seconds to respond to that because I think I would ask you, should you delay your confirmation until we finish this in January?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you very much, Senator. And you raise such important issues. And also, by the way, thank you so much for speaking to me very early in the morning where you were.

But anyway, you raise a very good, important issue, and that is our leadership internationally and our ability to identify additional bands to study. Mid-band spectrum is very important.

With regard to my current role as coordinating the preparations for the World Radio Communication Conference, I can assure you that the State Department is doing contingency planning in the event that you see fit to confirm me to serve as Commissioner, and we will ensure that U.S. leadership continues.

Senator BLACKBURN. But you have been in preparation for this for a long time, and we would like to see this completed with proficiency and with U.S. policy at the forefront. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

Senator MARKEY [presiding]. Senator Hickenlooper.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN HICKENLOOPER, U.S. SENATOR FROM COLORADO

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Ms. Gomez, spectrum is a valuable resource that supports innovations such as 5G communications, smart devices in our homes, as we discussed yesterday.

And thank you very much for making the time. I appreciate that. Spectrum also has to be shared between Federal agencies and the private sector to make—to meet all the various needs that exist.

And we have been working on legislation to modernize the Spectrum Relocation Fund, both to promote science-based research, but also to protect users from harmful interference, and really just to improve our decisionmaking around spectrum in all manner of decisions.

Experts from around the country and across academia suggest that the spectrum reallocation—the Spectrum Relocation Fund should be reformed, rebuilt. So, what incentives do you believe Federal agencies need to share or reallocate spectrum to support the growth of—the growth of innovations, really?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you for that question. And it was wonderful to speak with you as well. I know you were very busy yesterday, so the time that you took was precious——

Senator HICKENLOOPER. We ended up talking in the hall, unfortunately—my me being late from one thing and late to another. Thank you.

Ms. GOMEZ. Absolutely. As you note, it is getting more and more challenging to identify spectrum for new uses. And finding ways to incentivize incumbents to study ways that maybe we can repurpose or share spectrum is very important. I would commend any efforts to update the Spectrum Relocation Fund.

In particular, one of the areas that I think we could help incentivize the agencies is currently they are only permitted to recover the costs for comparable capabilities for their systems. Imagine if you were told that you have a 30 year old system and you can only get a system that has the same capabilities from 30 years ago.

That is one area that I think Congress could really help in providing additional incentives for incumbents to study their particular systems for possible repurposing.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. Absolutely. And that is a great and very stark example. And using that Segway, I will go to Mr. Starks. The FCC has already taken several steps to ban suspect equipment made by Huawei or ZTE from being purchased.

However, the Rip and Replace Program faces in the neighborhood of a $3 billion shortfall. This means that the small carriers, almost always in rural areas, can only be reimbursed at literally less than half of what they spent in turn, when they remove this and what they get, what the compensation totals.

Carriers can either choose to continue operating on aging networks with insecure equipment, or they can shut down parts of their networks, especially in situations where they have issues around wildfires or hurricanes, extreme weather.

So, Commissioner Sparks, what are the consequences for networks in rural communities if the program shortfall isn't fixed quickly?

Mr. STARKS. Yes, thank you so much for the question, Senator. Thank you for your leadership here. This goes back to one of the issues that I started with in 2019, you know, Find It, Fix It, Fund It, where identifying insecure Huawei and ZTE equipment, ripping it out, and then replacing it through remediation process.

But as you pointed out, you know, we have nearly a $3 billion shortfall. You know, if we don't fund this, you are going to have many of those small carriers who are going to have to make that very difficult decision to either leave it in their networks, which still obviously has very much the national security risk that we are talking about.

Many of these are also somewhere around small—around military installations. You know, the other option would be, as you mentioned, that they would have to take this on their own, add nearly $0.40 a dollar, and we would end up paying them. And so ultimately, I think that would harm consumers.

With many of these small, rural carriers, they don't have funds in order to be able to do that. They would either have to shut down, which would leave some of these rural areas without a service. I think it is imperative. And in the legislation that you have advanced, along with Senator Fischer, I think is very well done. It has my strong support.

Senator HICKENLOOPER. I appreciate that. Flattery will get you everywhere. I am out of time. I will submit written to Commissioner Carr. I had a question for you on the, you know, looking at the skilled work force, how I know you have done a lot of work on that.

We will look forward to your response on that. And Ms. Damelin, again, I was—you were going to get a question on guiding principles. You will still get it, but you will have to write the response. Thank you very much. I yield back.

Senator MARKEY. The Chair recognizes the Senator from South Dakota, Mr. Thune.

STATEMENT OF HON. JOHN THUNE,
U.S. SENATOR FROM SOUTH DAKOTA

Senator THUNE. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I continue to believe—and thank you all for being here. To the best way to provide long term protections for the Internet is for Congress to pass bipartisan legislation.

When I served as Chairman of this Committee, I put forward legislative principles and a draft bill to begin the conversation, and I stand ready and willing today to work toward finding a lasting legislative solution that will resolve the dispute over net neutrality once and for all.

My question is for each of you that as Commissioners, do you each believe the FCC should come to Congress for more direction before attempting any iteration of net neutrality rules, yes or no?

Mr. STARKS. Yes, Senator.

Senator THUNE. Ms. Gomez.

Ms. GOMEZ. Well, Senator, I certainly would encourage the Senate to adopt legislation to address this issue once and for all. At the same time, I do believe that broadband Internet access service is too central to our lives, to education, to working, to rural health care, not to have oversight. So, I look forward to working with you and hope that maybe I can help, if confirmed, with your efforts at legislation.

Senator THUNE. Well, we would like to work on that. And, but I have to say, it really—to my view, it needs to be the role of Con-

gress. And I would guess, and Mr. Starks, if you want to go ahead and answer that question.

Mr. STARKS. Yes, my answer is no. I absolutely agree, and I would love to work with you, love to work with Congress. I do think additional legislation here would be very sound policy for American people. But the FCC does have the authorization, the jurisdiction that we need to move forward.

Senator THUNE. Is there—since this FCC's 2017 order repealed what I think we are very heavy handed Title II regulations, what sort of activities have ISPs engaged in that the FCC would need Title II authority for? What specific harms have you seen?

Mr. STARKS. You know, I think regardless of specific harms, I think, you know, as somebody who views part of the regulator's job is to make sure that we have the proper guardrails to protect consumers. And I would view, obviously, the need for net neutrality rules as part of that—as part of that theory.

Senator THUNE. Yes, hopefully put together by Congress. Commissioner Carr, the—when the FCC was considering the restoring Internet freedom order, Title II advocates made a number of claims that the Internet would, as we know it, would end as we know it, and ISPs would charge consumers different amounts to access different services, and that ISPs would block or slow down certain content online unless consumers paid exorbitant fees. Even Senate Democrats sent a tweet warning that Americans would be getting the Internet one word at a time. Did any of these things happen?

Mr. CARR. Senator, no, we have not seen that. In fact, we look at mobile wireless feeds. On average, in the 5-years since that decision, they have increased 456 percent. I think ultimately COVID was probably the greatest stress test for communications policy.

And as the Ranking Member indicated, during COVID–19, as traffic surged globally, Europeans regulators asked their streamers to degrade the quality of their service because they were worried that the continent's networks would break. While here, we had massive investment that helped to carry all that traffic.

Senator THUNE. And if the FCC reclassify broadband under Title II once again, what effect would such a change have on smaller broadband providers like those in my home state of South Dakota, some of which you just met with recently?

Mr. CARR. Senator, I think it would really constitute a regulatory onslaught and increase costs. And that the interesting thing I think about net neutrality is that there is a tremendous amount of common ground here on principles.

The challenge is if the FCC does it and goes through Title II, Title II is an entire regime that is sort of ill-fated here. And in fact, even the last FCC forbore from something like 700 provisions of Title II, which I sort of think is evidence, and it is just not fit for this type of technology.

Senator THUNE. Thank you. Shifting gears for just a minute. The previous FCC, led by Chairman Pai, provided critical relief from State and local obstacles that increased costs and delayed deployment of 5G small cells.

Eliminating burdensome regulations have been critical for America's leadership in 5G, and in the aftermath of the previous FCC's reforms, the number of cell sites in the U.S. increased by 35 per-

cent between 2016 and 2021, after increasing only 1 percent between 2013 and 2016. I would like to see more done on this front.

We can't afford to make rural America wait any longer to see the benefits of broadband for two more years because of paperwork. Commissioner Carr, let me quickly, what are the ways the FCC could expand upon the previous FCC reforms?

And then for Mr. Starks and Ms. Gomez, would you commit to preserving the previous FCC's reforms and expanding upon them during your tenure?

Mr. CARR. There is a lot we can do, Senator, including taking some of those reforms that we applied in the small cell context, shot clocks, that type of ideas, and moving that into the wired context. I think that is one thing that we should be looking at.

Senator THUNE. Mr. Starks.

Mr. STARKS. Yes, from my perspective, you know, making sure that we are able to accelerate and particularly with the amount of broadband that we have coming, wireless that we have coming, I think is extremely important. And some of the rules that we did have preserve, I think, make good sense.

Senator THUNE. Yes. Ms. Gomez.

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. I agree that getting deployment out as fast as possible to areas like your home State is important and that we should take whatever actions we can, also understanding that the needs of localities as well to do their own processes. And I look forward to working with you, and I look forward to working with Commissioners Carr and Starks on that, if confirmed.

Senator THUNE. Well, Commissioner Starks's brother and sister in law in Sioux Falls probably have pretty good coverage, but there are a lot of areas of South Dakota that don't, so.

Mr. STARKS. Yes, they do, Senator.

Senator THUNE. Thank you all very much.

STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD MARKEY,
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS

Senator MARKEY. The gentleman's time has expired. The Chair recognizes himself around the question. And Senator of South Dakota is referencing that. I am going to reference Malden, Massachusetts.

Ms. Damelin, I have no questions for you, but I know your father in law is from Malden, Massachusetts, and that he was the Inspector General of the SBA. He was the Inspector General of the Department of Treasury. He went to Boston College and Boston College Law School with me as a commuter from Malden over to Boston College for 7 years, so I know the stock from which you come.

And in addition, from Malden, Earl Stanley Gardner, who wrote the Perry Mason series was also for Malden. So, I know that you have detective qualities that have been given to you as you, you know, coming to before this committee for confirmation as Inspector General, and I intend to support that.

Let me turn to Ms. Gomez. In 2015, the Federal Communications Commission approved the Open Internet Order, which put in place net neutrality protections and properly treated broadband as a telecommunications service under Title II of the Communications Act.

The Trump era FCC later eviscerated net neutrality and eliminated the Commission's rightful authority to protect broadband consumers, promote public safety, and close the digital divide.

Yet the COVID–19 pandemic has left no doubt that today the Internet is essential for everything from jobs to education to health care. Now more than ever, we need net neutrality. Internet users deserve a Commission with authority to oversee broadband as a 21st century essential utility.

Ms. Gomez, do you support reinstating net neutrality rules and restoring classification of broadband as a Title II service?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator, and thank you very much for meeting with me last week. I enjoyed our conversation very much. I think broadband Internet access service is very important. It is central to our lives. It is central to getting access to education, rural health care, doing work.

We learned this during the pandemic. It is too important not to have oversight by the Commission. And so, I support what Chairman—Chairwoman Rosenworcel told you, that the Commission should have robust authority over broadband Internet access.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. And I plan as well to introduce legislation that would finally end this back and forth between Administrations. And I think the Congress must act, but I think the FCC must act as well.

So, it is critical that we confirm you. Over the past 2 years, the Emergency Connectivity Fund has provided laptops, tablets, Internet services to over 17 million students and teachers. These resources are especially critical for black, brown, immigrant, and low income populations who often lack access to the Internet at home.

I was able to secure $7 billion 2 years ago to make sure that those kids got access to it. You can see the scores the kids have gone down over the last several years and it is pretty dramatic and serious.

In addition to, obviously, the targeting of kids by social media companies. So, there is a real crisis out there that we can see. Do you agree, Commissioner Starks and Ms. Gomez and Commissioner Carr, that those funds help to connect students and educators to help to reduce the crisis that we are in right now? Mr. Carr.

Mr. CARR. Senator, they did. Thanks for your leadership on these issues. One thing that I did in implementing ECF was the original draft would have used those funds to compensate schools for past expenses that they had made on connectivity. And I worked with my colleagues to make sure it is forward looking so we can actually use it as Congress directed us to do to bridge the digital divide.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. Ms. Gomez.

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes, Senator, I agree.

Senator MARKEY. Mr. Starks.

Mr. STARKS. Yes, Senator, thank you for your leadership. I think ECF has done tremendous work. It has had a tremendous impact that has helped real young learners, helped them through the pandemic. I know we still have about $1 billion left in the funds. In particular, it is prioritized for schools that are left with the greatest need. I think it is very important.

Senator MARKEY. Great. Yes, and again, we are down to just $1 billion, so it is running out of money, and we just can't let it run

out of money. This is a continuing crisis that we can see in our country. Kids need it on their desks, but they needed it at home as well, especially the poorest kids.

And so, I am going to continue to work to try to make sure that that funding remains intact. And we talked, Ms. Gomez, last week about expanding E-Rate. E-Rate is a program that I helped to create in 1996 so kids had the Internet on their desks, in school, to cover devices and Internet connectivity for students, not just in the classroom but also at home.

So, can you talk about your philosophy in terms of how E-Rate should be looked at in the future?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. The E-Rate has had done much good in connecting schools and libraries, and if confirmed, I would look forward to delving into the program and how best to benefit students. And hope to work with you as well.

Senator MARKEY. If we don't do something, then we are going to have millions of kids who just go over a digital cliff here. And we know that the good part of it is obviously making sure that they have it at the in the classroom, in at home. That is the good side of it in this Dickensian world.

But there is also a negative side, and we have to move on strong child internet, social media protections that the Congress promulgates to protect them against the negative side of it as well. So, my time has expired. Let me turn and recognize the Senator from Ohio, Senator Vance.

STATEMENT OF HON. J. D. VANCE,
U.S. SENATOR FROM OHIO

Senator VANCE. Great. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thanks to you and the Ranking Member for scheduling this hearing. I want to direct my questions to Mr. Carr, because you have said or written some things that are interesting to me about tech censorship.

And, you know, I think about how communications have changed in this country. It seems preposterous to me to think that 40 or 50 years ago you would have had your telephone service turned off for having the wrong political views, but now you are regularly denied access to modern forms of communication for having the wrong political views.

We have seen this in the COVID era. We have seen this in a whole host of other contexts. And I know, we have even seen this affect our electoral system as certain stories are censored in the run up to an election and as certain candidates appear to be supported or not supported by the big tech companies in their fundraising efforts.

I find this just really preposterous that we allow this. I want to ask in particular about, you know, your views on Section 230. I want to start there now. You have been somewhat skeptical, as I understand it, of the idea that Section 230 gives the tech platforms carte blanche to sort of censor speech that they don't like.

And I know you sort of engage in some work to counteract that. But, you know, from our perspectives, there has been a lot of talk about Section 230 reform. I am curious, do you know—what are your views on how to overall Section 230 to make sure it remains relevant in the 21st century, but maybe more importantly, to make

sure that it actually protects the First Amendment in the 21st century?

Mr. CARR. Yes, Senator, thank you for the question. I mean, look, I am reminded that the modern day Op-Ed launched on the pages of *The New York Times,* actually the 1970s, the editor, John Oakes said, "diversity of opinion is the lifeblood of democracy. The moment we insist that everybody think the same way we do, our democratic way of life is lost."

And I think if you look at what the courts have said on Section 230, and for instance, what Justice Thomas has said in Section 230, is that the courts have read immunities into Section 230 that Congress never codified in it.

And so I think there is a role for the FCC to go in and look at the words of Section 230 and say, here is what these words means as Congress intended it, and I think the upshot of that would be result that promotes more speech, because I don't think that Section 230 is written by Congress gives social media companies carte blanche to censor speech.

Senator VANCE. Got it. I appreciate that and I am sure we will follow up with some conversations on that particular topic. I want to step back a little bit and talk about universal service contribution, because this matters a lot to the people of Ohio.

It is obviously one of the ways that we fund access to telecommunication services for a lot of residents who otherwise wouldn't have access to it. You know, the Internet has changed a lot since the Telecommunications Act of 1996, and you have proposed some interesting things when it comes to funding that system in the 21st century.

I describe our current funding model, which of course goes after traditional telephone providers to provide modern broadband services as akin to taxing horseshoes to pay for the interstate highway system. You know, you have proposed some other things, and maybe you could flesh that out and why you think it is a good idea?

Mr. CARR. Well, thanks. If you start from the proposition that we are going to have the Universal Service Fund, which I do, because Section 254 says, a Commissioner should. So, if we start with that, the question is, what is the most efficient way to administer that?

And if you look at the large businesses, the enterprises that are benefiting from these USF expenditures right now, a lot of it is the large technology companies, including digital advertising companies.

So, I do think it is fair to say, should those entities pay a fair share, which would remove the burden on people that are paying their monthly telephone bills? I think that could be an interesting path forward.

Senator VANCE. Great. I appreciate that. And I would love to sort of work on that particular issue and make this committee and this body, you know, useful in that effort. But appreciate your work, appreciate all of you for being here, and I yield back the remainder of my time. Thank you.

Senator MARKEY. Thanks. Great. The Senator's time has expired. The Senator from Vermont, Mr. Welch.

STATEMENT OF HON. PETER WELCH,
U.S. SENATOR FROM VERMONT

Senator WELCH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, it is good to be here. We are going to get something done. You all are doing a good job, but don't quote me on that.

[Laughter.]

Senator WELCH. But I am delighted that we are going to get back, I hope, to full strength on the FCC, and I really appreciate the work, Mr. Starks, that you have been doing, and Mr. Carr, what you have been doing.

And I am delighted to have Ms. Gomez here. And it would be good to have an Inspector General from Malden, Mass. You can't do better than that. So, it is just—I just want to express my appreciation for the work of the FCC. I want to appreciate the—and acknowledge the bipartisan effort that has been made under difficult circumstances. I think all of us welcome that.

The issues aren't easy, but working together obviously is the ultimate way to go and be successful and have some durable accomplishments. So to just take this as an expression of one Senator's gratitude. I have—so thank you all, each and every one. I just do have a couple of questions. I will start on the mapping question.

And Mr. Carr, I want to just ask you about that. Mapping has been a real problem. We started focusing on that actually, I think when Senator Blackburn was in the house on the Energy and Commerce committee with me.

We have made some progress, but the implementation really, really depends on good mapping. And I want to just hear from you about how you are just going to stay on it, not just you, but the FCC, to make certain that mapping is accurate?

Mr. CARR. Senator, thank you so much for the question. And really thank you for your leadership, including in the House. I think it is fair to say we wouldn't be where we are right now with a much improved map if it weren't for the work and the legislation that you all passed.

You know, the map is much improved, but we have to stay on it. And that includes working with State broadband offices. I have met with at least nine State broadband offices right now to continue to improve what is going to be iterative.

But the advances we have made, particularly from new version one, the new version two are quite substantial.

Senator WELCH. So, you are going to stay on it. Good. Thank you. And Ms. Gomez, we have what are called "commuter union districts" in Vermont.

I think it is a very innovative way where towns banded together, it is very rural, and obviously those towns have a goal and a commitment to getting that broadband to the last barn on the farthest dirt road.

So, I want to ask if you are familiar with the CUD districts, community union districts, and is that something that you will focus on to help us do what we need to do in Vermont to be successful in implementation?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator, for that question. I think connecting broadband to every corner, every—I think you said barn, and every driveway, to reach every person across the country in

every area is very important, and I am more than happy to work with you on ensuring that the FCC takes actions that enable that.

Senator WELCH. OK. Thank you. Mr. Starks, you know, you and I and Commissioner—Chair Rosenworcel have worked on the homework gap. Mr. Luján, Senator Luján is going to be here in a few minutes, but he has been a leader here on getting the Wi-Fi on the school busses. You know what that really, really, really makes a difference in rural America. What are you going to be doing on helping us get those school busses wired?

Mr. STARKS. Yes. Thank you for the focus here. Thank you for your leadership, your longstanding leadership on telecom issues, Senator. Educating our youngest minds is extraordinarily important.

And, you know, again, I am a Kansan and certainly know that folks have long ways—young learners, students have long ways that they may need to travel on busses. And so, I absolutely think that it is imperative and consistent with our telecom programing to allow Wi-Fi on busses to make sure that students can learn that way.

Senator WELCH. OK. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Senator MARKEY. OK. Senator from North Carolina, Mr. Budd.

STATEMENT OF HON. TED BUDD,
U.S. SENATOR FROM NORTH CAROLINA

Senator BUDD. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Again, thank the panel for being here. Ms. Gomez, you were Deputy Assistant Secretary at the National Telecommunications Information Administration when the $4 billion Broadband Technology and Opportunities Program, or the BTOP, was established.

Now, as you know, and most of us know, this program had a lot of issues. The GAO found that the program needed some more clearly defined outcomes to address broadband barriers.

The *New York Times* also reported that the program used grants to build fiber networks where they already existed rather than where they are most needed, such as in rural or mountain towns, a lot of which is like North Carolina.

And despite these challenges, you testified in 2017 that the program invested in lasting projects that increased access and adoption of broadband throughout the country. So, Ms. Gomez, given your role in overseeing this program, BTOP, how can we as a committee have confidence that you are going to responsibly steward taxpayer dollars at the FCC and prevent desperately needed broadband funding from going to wasteful overbuilding?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you very much, Senator, for that important question. I am certainly hopeful that I can bring my experience to bear, and the lessons learned from prior programs in helping the FCC to ensure strong oversight and that the dollars are going to those that most need them.

Senator BUDD. Thank you for that. And if successful, I hope that you will. So, thank you. Commissioner Carr, the FCC conducted an auction of 2.5—or 2.5 gigahertz spectrum last summer. 90 percent of those licenses that were won at that auction, they haven't been issued.

And these licenses could improve connectivity for 1.6 million North Carolinians. The FCC Chair seems to think that the FCC can't issue those licenses because its authority has lapsed. So, do you believe the FCC has the authority to issue licenses that were won on that auction despite the lapse of its auction authority?

Mr. CARR. Thank you, Senator. Yes, I do. In fact, I think the FCC statutory authority is clear and the analysis is straightforward. Our Section 309(j) authority to conduct new auctions has expired, but our Section 309(a) authority to issue licenses, one at completed auctions, continues.

In fact, when we issue licenses bought at auction, we always cite through 309(a), not through 309(j) as a source of authority. And around the country, but almost 55 million people that if we issued these licenses, they could get new service or better service virtually overnight. And so, I think that is one that we can take and certainly that we should take.

Senator BUDD. Well, thank you. I hope that you do. That is good news to hear about 309(a). On June 15th of 2023, Chairwoman Rosenworcel circulated a Notice of Inquiry to, "investigate how data caps affect consumers and competition."

Specifically, the Notice of Inquiry asked how the FCC's legal authority to take action regarding data caps. Ms. Gomez, is taking legal action to ban usage based pricing, is that a form of rate regulation? How do you see that?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator, for your question. I have to admit, I don't know much about the notice that the Chairwoman circulated. I think—when I think of rate regulation, however, since that is what your question was, I think of traditional rate regulation like I used to do when I was a young staffer at the FCC involving tariffs and price caps and rate of return regulation. And that is certainly not something I think is necessary today. I think competition is the best regulation—regulator of prices.

Senator BUDD. I appreciate that. So, a follow-up question, how could the FCC possibly account for all the downstream effects that would follow if the FCC decided and banned usage-based pricing?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. It is my view that we always need to be careful about unintended adverse effects. And it is something that, if confirmed, I would want to make sure that we understand if the FCC has any items placed before it as Commissioners, that the Commissioners have to see items and review items that may affect downstream services.

Senator BUDD. Very good. Again, thank you all.

Senator WELCH. The Chair recognizes the Ranking Member.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As you know, I was very dismayed with how the Commission handled the Standard General-Tegna transaction.

There was 2–2 Commission. The Chairwoman wanted to block a lawful transaction, but she didn't have the votes. So instead, she skipped a Commission level vote and directed the FCC's media bureau to do her bidding.

All of that was in the context of widespread allegations that this deal was quashed specifically to benefit a longtime Democrat donor. Mr. Starks, you were a sitting Commissioner at the time. Did you have any concerns regarding the Chairwoman's unprecedented de-

cision to quash a multibillion dollar transaction without the full Commission even taking a vote?

Mr. STARKS. Yes. Thank you for the question, Senator. You know, this was one of the most complex media transactions, mergers that we have had certainly before us in recent memory. The transaction never came before me as a Commissioner, as you mentioned. The full record and the information there was not before me as a Commissioner. This was handled at the media bureau——

Senator CRUZ. With all respect, Mr. Starks, that is the point, is it didn't come before you as a Commissioner. Were you troubled by that? You just said it was complex and important, and the Chairwoman had the bureau decide it, so it never came before you as a Commissioner.

Were you troubled by it? Yesterday in my office, you said you thought that the Commission should vote on significant matters. Do you still hold that view?

Mr. STARKS. Senator, I deeply appreciated our conversation. What you and I talked about when you had mentioned whether there was a certain threshold of which you think that transaction should be taken and voted on by the full Commission.

And I appreciated you posing that question. I have thought about it. And would be eager to work with you as we think through that question. I am not sure——

Senator CRUZ. Did you say anything publicly when the Chairwoman acted to prevent the full Commission from voting on this matter?

Mr. STARKS. I have not raised it publicly, no.

Senator CRUZ. That is disappointing. Ms. Gomez, you and I discussed the same matter. In my office, you stated that you believe significant decisions of this sort should be dealt with by the full Commission. Is that still your position?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. And yes, we did discuss this in your office. And again, I appreciate your time, especially so late in the day when we had that conversation. You know, Commissioners are nominated by the President. They are confirmed by the Senate. I think that they should vote on more items and not especially when there are major items in the public interest.

Senator CRUZ. So, will you commit, if you are confirmed as a Commissioner, that you will not sit quietly by and allow a matter of this significance to be decided at the bureau level without the Commissioners having a vote?

Ms. GOMEZ. I would commit that I would work with the Chairwoman on whatever she puts before us. But I do believe that Commissioners should vote on matters of significant public interest.

Senator CRUZ. Well, I would hope that if you are confirmed, you would be willing to say so, because it is one thing to sit quietly by and allow a Commissioner, a Chairwoman, to abuse her authority. But if you are confirmed as an independent Commissioner, you have—you don't work for the Chairwoman.

Ms. GOMEZ. That is right.

Senator CRUZ. I want to turn to another topic, which is so-called net neutrality. Now, when the Obama Administration FCC's net neutrality rule was repealed, there were all sorts of histrionic projection—predictions.

For example, in 2018, the Senate Democrat Caucus tweeted, "if we don't save net neutrality, you will get the Internet one word at a time." MSNBC publicly said that "ending net neutrality will destroy everything that makes the Internet great."

Not to be outdone, Senator Bernie Sanders announced, as did news outlet CNN, that ending the net neutrality rule was the end of the Internet as we know it. Mr. Starks, were any of these predictions accurate?

Mr. STARKS. The Internet continues to thrive, Senator.

Senator CRUZ. Is that a no?

Mr. STARKS. Were these accurate? No, these are not accurate.

Senator CRUZ. Ms. Gomez.

Ms. GOMEZ. I agree.

Senator CRUZ. In my office yesterday, you acknowledged that the repeated protestations of Democrats and the media where, I think the term you used were "hyperbolic." You still share that assessment?

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes, Senator, I do.

Senator CRUZ. One of the alleged harms was that the Internet was going to slow dramatically. Has that come to pass?

Ms. GOMEZ. I am not aware that it has, Senator.

Senator CRUZ. Mr. Starks.

Mr. STARKS. No, not to my knowledge, no.

Senator CRUZ. So, in fact, average mobile speeds went up 456 percent, and average fixed speeds increased 230 percent. Now, look, I understand that net neutrality has become this shibboleth for the left, that as the Democrat nominee you have to say, net neutrality rules are great.

But all of the predicted harms were demonstrated to be nonsense. And I got to say, broadband right now in America is leading the world. We saw during the pandemic when heavily regulated European broadband couldn't keep up.

Mr. Starks, Ms. Gomez, both of you in my office said yesterday that you did not believe the FCC should regulate rates. Is that still your view, Mr. Starks?

Mr. STARKS. That is correct.

Senator CRUZ. Ms. Gomez?

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes, Senator, that is still my view.

Senator CRUZ. Mr. Carr, what would be the harm if the FCC asserts the power to regulate rates and to turn the Internet essentially into a public utility that is controlled by the Federal Government?

Mr. CARR. I think it would be a lot of negative consequences. One is we continue to need billions and billions of dollars of private sector investment to make the Internet work and to build it out. And when the FCC went down this path the last time, we saw significant declines in investment, according to some studies.

Senator CRUZ. Thank you.

Senator WELCH [presiding]. Thank you. The Senator from Kansas.

Senator MORAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Let me start with regulation of broadband, where perhaps Senator Cruz was ending.

As Senator Budd mentioned, that Chair Rosenworcel announced recently that she would be asking the Commission to vote on a no-

tice of inquiry examining the practices of broadband providers imposing so-called data caps on consumer broadband plans.

Mr. Carr, do you think this is an issue that warrants FCC time and resources? Also, wouldn't prohibiting or regulating usage-based pricing amount to a form of rate regulation?

Mr. CARR. I think it would effectively amount to rate regulation. At the end of the day, let's say, for instance, you have a $30 data cap plan that is affordable for somebody, or a $60 or $70 unlimited plan, for the FCC to come in and outlaw that $30 offing, it certainly seems to me a lot like rate regulation.

Ms. Gomez, as we know, broadband services are currently classified as an information service, not subject to Title II regulation under the Communications Act. Given this fact, if the FCC determines that it wants to regulate broadband usage based pricing, under which statutory provision could the FCC impose such regulations?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator, for that question. Just to make sure I understand your question. If the FCC were to regulate usage-based pricing, under what provision would they regulate that?

Senator MORAN. Yes. Assuming that you agree with me that the law currently doesn't allow that under—it is not subject to Title II regulations.

Ms. GOMEZ. OK, sorry. Thank you. Appreciate that clarification. I think that private Internet access services are too important, too central to our lives and to our economy not to have effective oversight.

And so, I would be supportive of a reclassification to Title II. However, I go back to my original point that I don't support rate regulation because I think that competition is the most effective regulator.

Senator MORAN. And I was going to ask you, so what is the distinction between what the answer I heard you tell Senator Cruz or told him in his office, and you confirmed today, and what you just said to me?

Ms. GOMEZ. I think it is the same.

Senator MORAN. In your earlier part about reclassification under Title II, tell me what you meant by that.

Ms. GOMEZ. Well, I think that Title II gives the strongest oversight to the FCC over the service. I just don't agree with regulating pricing.

Senator MORAN. And I assume—I mean, let me take that back. I would like for you to confirm that even though you have views about what the FCC should do or what is good for the economy, you do need statutory authority, a grant from Congress, in order to accomplish that. Is that true?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. I believe fidelity to the statute is always important. I also would strongly support for Congress to legislate in this arena. It would be, as Senator Thune mentioned earlier, the best course of action. But I would pledge fidelity to the Act and any action, that if I am fortunate enough to be confirmed, I would have before me.

Senator MORAN. I appreciate what Senator Thune said and that you agree with it. It would be the right course of action if Congress

and particular this committee could find that common ground sweet spot in which we could proceed.

Unfortunately, in my view, the FCC took action that made that less likely that we would be forced to make those compromises and the ability to work together. Let me turn to a spectrum auction. Section 108, the 2.5 gigahertz spectrum auction ended 10 months ago, but licenses that were sold remain with the FCC, despite payment for those licenses already being made.

Ostensibly, the FCC is holding these licenses because of the lapse in spectrum auction authority. I understand that the spectrum may be used to connect thousands of Kansans, particularly in rural areas, but without the licenses being provided, the connection cannot occur.

Commissioner Carr, other than Spectrum auction authority, are there any other tools the FCC can use to provide for the use of these licenses?

Mr. CARR. Yes, Senator. First of all, I think we can use our existing 309(a) authority to issue those licenses. But short of that, the FCC has an authority called STA, a special temporary authority, that would allow us to authorize the use of that, and to your point, bring Americans across the digital divide. And we could do it effectively with the flip of a switch.

Senator MORAN. And is there effort to do so?

Mr. CARR. I don't see any movement at the FCC toward that end.

Senator MORAN. OK. My final question, Mr. Chairman. Commissioner Carr, you have been outspoken in your belief that TikTok is a national security threat and a data privacy risk to Americans.

I agree with you, but I believe the problem of adversarial countries being able to siphon American data is greater than just one app. Can you talk about the pervasive challenge we are facing in terms of securing U.S. data from adversarial nations and offer any suggestions you might have for Congress to address the issue?

Mr. CARR. Thank you, Senator, for the question and your leadership on this. The way I think about it from an FCC perspective is we took action at the device layer. We have taken action on Huawei, ZTE. We have taken action at the carrier level, looking at China, Mobile China Telecom, the common denominator being entities that are beholden to the CCP and data flows back to China.

I think it is important as a country that we also take action at the application layer, whether that is in the main, the FTC or Treasury through the CFIUS department. I think that is where that action should take place as opposed to the FCC per se.

But we need to look at TikTok and we need to do a comprehensive look at all applications with sufficient ties back to adversarial regimes.

Senator MORAN. Data privacy has been another one of those issues that it would be great if Congress could find that sweet spot in which there is some willingness to work together to find a solution, and I am going to continue to try. Mr. Chairman—Mr. Chairman, thank you.

Senator WELCH. Thank you. Senator from Indiana.

STATEMENT OF HON. TODD YOUNG,
U.S. SENATOR FROM INDIANA

Senator YOUNG. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The Government Accountability Office recently examined Federal broadband efforts and found that there are over 130 Federal broadband programs administered by 15 different agencies.

In the GAO's own words, "Federal broadband efforts are fragmented and overlapping, and communities with limited resources may be most affected by fragmentation." We need to streamline and synchronize our broadband programs to make sure that the left hand is talking to the right hand.

And in this case, at least for now, that means over 130 hands. Duplicative and unnecessary overbuilding of our broadband networks doesn't benefit anyone. It slows broadband deployment, it squeezes an already tight labor pool even tighter, and it wastes taxpayer dollars.

We promised our constituents that the recent unprecedented amount of Federal spending on broadband will finally, finally close the digital divide. In a challenging economic climate, when staggering inflation is reducing the value of every dollar, it is vital that we get everything else right.

This means streamlining our current programs, using the most accurate broadband maps possible, rolling back unnecessary and burdensome regulations, allowing the free market to operate freely, and accounting for every dollar that goes out the door.

For years on end, underserved Hoosiers have been told that we are going to close the digital divide, and it is high time that we make good on that promise. Commissioner Carr, Commissioner Starks, and Ms. Gomez, welcome to the Committee.

I would like to ask all three of you for a yes or no answer, please. Should Federal broadband efforts that are currently spread across 15 agencies and over 130 programs be streamlined and synchronized? Yes or no, please. Commissioner Carr.

Mr. CARR. Yes, Senator.

Senator YOUNG. Thank you. Commissioner Starks.

Mr. STARKS. Yes. And I think the interagency aspect for us to actually have and effectuate the policies that are going to help build out everywhere and get broadband everywhere are extremely important right now.

Senator YOUNG. Ms. Gomez.

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes, Senator.

Senator YOUNG. Thank you, and I appreciate your concise responses. And I will now give each of you an opportunity, if you have any recommendations to this committee that we might take to help you achieve this goal?

Mr. CARR. Thank you, Senator. You know, one piece of legislation that actually Senator Welch worked on then, Congressman Welch, is the Plan for Broadband Act, which would put in place a national coordinating strategy.

I think that is one important step that has to take place, as well as permitting reform. Again, if we are just spending these dollars without during permitting reform, then we are stepping on the gas and the brakes at the same time. We need these dollars to go into the ground.

Senator YOUNG. I hear that time and again, whether it is in this context or the CHIPS and Science context, to name just a couple. Commissioner Starks.

Mr. STARKS. Yes, I agree with my colleague on that. The one thing that I would say also is that Commissioner Carr and I—you also need the right workforce in place in order to build out everywhere.

We have a historic amount of buildout that is going to be needed, so we need to—in addition to having policies set aside and in the right way, we need to make sure the workforce is ready to go. And so that means training.

Mr. Carr and I have had a number of events together. We have long worked on this issue. I think that is an important piece about this as well.

Senator YOUNG. I would certainly agree with that. Let's not forget our labor challenges. Ms. Gomez, anything to add?

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes, thank you, Senator. I realize that I am before you as a nominee for the Federal Communications Commission.

However, I would like to point out as well the importance of oversight and technical assistance, because all of this funding is going toward mostly to the states, and NTIA has a lot of lessons and guidance that they can provide on effectively overseeing grant programs and on even the workforce discussions that we have had, as well as permitting.

So, the importance of oversight and technical assistance is also something I would stress.

Senator YOUNG. Very important and well-received. That is our job as Congress to vigorously oversee our various agencies.

So, thank you. Staying on this theme of reform, I have a brief amount of time left, but I just want to say I wholeheartedly believe we need to have a robust and bipartisan conversation about universal service reform, and everything should be on the table.

Ms. Gomez, what are your thoughts on the current state of universal service? And should Congress take any steps to reform the Universal Service Fund? If so, maybe you can indicate what specific steps you would recommend or endorse?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. The Universal Service Fund program is very important. It is important for connectivity. It is important for our schools and libraries. It is important for rural health care.

It is important for students. So, protecting program integrity is important. And if confirmed, I would love to work with you and this committee on addressing ways to ensure that we can protect the program going forward.

Senator YOUNG. Thank you. I will look forward to doing so, should you be confirmed. Commissioner Carr, anything to add as it relates to the steps Congress might take to effectively reform the Universal Service Fund?

Mr. CARR. One idea that I have talked about a lot recently, actually has to do with Inspector Generals, which is to say potentially codifying a requirement that the FCC consult with the IG on the frontend of all of these initiatives and actually put in our decisional document, here is the eight recommendations that the IG had to break into waste, fraud, abuse.

Hopefully agree with all of them, but if we don't, we can explain why that is. I know our Chair has done that before, but there is no obligation to. And in fact, maybe that is a better requirement just across the board for all agencies is to codify that requirement to consult with IGs and put their recommendations upfront in the decisional document.

Senator YOUNG. Noted, internalized. Poised for action. That is excellent. Thank you all. Senator Luján, you are recognized.

Senator LUJÁN. Thank you very much. Senator Sinema, I believe is up next.

Senator YOUNG. My apologies. Senator Sinema, you are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. KYRSTEN SINEMA,
U.S. SENATOR FROM ARIZONA

Senator SINEMA. Well, thank you so much. And thank you to the nominees for joining us today. And Ms. Gomez, I would like to begin with net neutrality. As you know, net neutrality is a critical protection for both Internet consumers and providers. It is a priority for lawmakers across the political spectrum.

However, as you also know, decades of partisan disagreement, FCC rule changes with each new Administration, and the resulting years of cost of litigation have failed to reach a workable solution. The result is that consumers and providers have no certainty about the rules of the internet.

I believe the only way to permanently fix net neutrality is for Congress to pass a bipartisan bill that provides lasting net neutrality protections while ensuring there is opportunity for innovation and the internet.

It is clear that existing law does not map neatly into the 21st century digital world, and it fails consumers when it is applied to the modern internet. Do you agree that the best way to find a lasting, workable solution on net neutrality is through Congressional action?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. That is a very important question. And yes, I do agree.

Senator SINEMA. Well, thank you. If you believe that Congressional action is the best path, then will you support proposal of the FCC to go ahead with the Title II approach to net neutrality should Congress fail to act?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. If the Chairwoman puts a proposal before me, and certainly if confirmed, of course, and before the Commissioners, I—it is my belief that broadband Internet access is a service that is central to our lives, to our businesses, to our work, to our education, to getting rural health care. And the FCC should take action to ensure that it has effective oversight.

Senator SINEMA. Thanks. I am very proud of the funding secured to help rural, tribal, and other low income communities obtain affordable broadband services in the bipartisan infrastructure law that I helped to negotiate and pass.

Arizona is largely a rural state, home to many of the communities most in need of the help that the law seeks to provide. So, this includes distributing the $42.5 billion in BEAD program

money in line with allocations we expect to see announced next week. So, two questions for you, Ms. Gomez.

How do you believe the FCC may best serve its oversight role in ensuring such large amounts of money reach the destinations they are intended to while minimizing waste, fraud, and abuse? And then second, do you believe the FCC has the resources it needs to ensure these programs are instituted successfully now and in the future?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator, for that very important question. I think that the FCC plays a very important role in ensuring that the funding throughout the various agencies is administered in the most effective manner and ensuring that it reaches those that most need it.

It can do so through the mapping efforts, which is continually updating and upgrading. It can do so through sharing information and data with the other agencies, and I believe it should continue to stay closely involved in providing whatever support it can to make sure that we can connect all who need access to broadband Internet access service.

Senator SINEMA. Well, thank you. You know, Mr. Starks, Mr. Carr, would you also like to respond?

Mr. CARR. Yes, Senator. Thank you for the questions. You know, I think that we need to, first of all, prioritize unserved communities rather than underserved. I think one thing that you did in leading on this infrastructure initiative was to establish tech neutrality.

I have been concerned a little bit at some of the policy cuts that implementing this may put too much of a preference for one technology over the other. I think we need to leave it to the states under the law, as you negotiated it, to make the best decisions for them about what technology is going to work and then obviously to continue to oversee this, to avoid overbuilding, and to continue to coordinate with our Inspector Generals on this.

Mr. STARKS. Yes. And this is Commissioner Starks. Thank you so much for the question, Senator. In particular for your hard work on focusing on tribal communities as well.

Tribal broadband is a particularly important part, making sure that our broadband maps are ready to make sure that the funding that is going to start to flow from NTIA is well placed and well matched.

The Tribal Connectivity Fund as well seems like it is doing tremendous work in tribal areas as well, focusing on, in particular some of those very left behind tribal communities who need broadband as quickly as possible.

Senator SINEMA. Thank you. Mr. Chair, I know my time is running down. Just one quick item more. Earlier this year, students and staff at the Tucson Unified School District had their sensitive information hacked by a hacker ring.

The hackers stole confidential information, Social Security numbers, passports, driver's license, and held it for ransom. Now, the FBI insists they have warned governments of schools are vulnerable to cyber-attacks.

Last September, the Arizona Department of Education urged the FCC to allow schools to use E-Rate funding to create more ad-

vanced cybersecurity infrastructures and systems. But right now, it is limited in terms of aid for advanced network protection.

So, Ms. Gomez, my last question for you is, would you support expanding the E-Rate program to allow schools to use E-Rate funds to purchase a wider, more protective range of cybersecurity tools like firewalls or network security services?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, Senator. You certainly raise a really important issue. I have to admit, if confirmed, I would need to look into the statute and how this fits within the statute. But I am very supportive of any efforts to secure the networks over which this important data is being carried.

Senator SINEMA. Great. We will follow up. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

Senator LUJÁN. Thank you, Senator. Senator Warnock, you are recognized.

STATEMENT OF HON. RAPHAEL WARNOCK, U.S. SENATOR FROM GEORGIA

Senator WARNOCK. Thank you, Mr. Chair. The bipartisan infrastructure law's broadband infrastructure investments have put the United States on the cusp of finally, finally beginning to close the digital divide.

But broadband infrastructure is just half of the equation. Without dedicated efforts on digital equity and affordability, we still risk leaving millions of Americans unable to access the internet, which means they are disconnected from school, disconnected from health care, and the modern world.

One of the hallmarks of digital equity and affordability is the FCC's Affordable Connectivity program, which has helped over 18 million Americans, and over 600,000 Georgians afford essential Internet service through ACP, the Affordable Connectivity Program.

This is a great start, but there are over 51 million Americans that qualify for the ACP, so clearly much more work needs to be done. Ms. Gomez, how does and how should the FCC support states in conducting outreach for the ACP program?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you very much, Senator, for that question. I have personal experience with poverty. When I was in high school right before going to college, my family lost everything, and I had to scrape my way, borrow, work my way through college and through law school.

And I faced that difficult decision of whether to pay my phone bill or what or whether—how, you know, not buy food, I guess. I had to pay my rent, too. And I like to tell the story and I apologize for taking time saying it, I just want you to know how personal this is to me. I would call my brother.

It was usually around May of every year, and I would say, Louis, I can't pay my phone bill this month. And he would say, how much do you need? And I would say, $34. And he would send me $100. And that $100 felt like $1,000 at the time.

So, I very much understand how difficult it is for families, especially low income families, to make these decisions, but yet still maintain that connectivity that is so vital to us today. And so, I forgot your question, but if confirmed, I am happy to——

Senator WARNOCK. Well, I think personal experience and perspective is absolutely important to getting the policy right.

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes.

Senator WARNOCK. The question is, is how is the FCC conducting outreach for the ACP program to help these families?

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you, sir——

Senator WARNOCK. And what is it that it should be doing? But I have the same question for Mr. Starks and Mr. Carr as well. Go ahead, Ms. Gomez.

Ms. GOMEZ. Thank you very much. I have to admit, I am not at the Commission, so I am not 100 percent sure what the Commission is doing. I would hope that they are conducting that outreach because families need to know that there is this available to them as a service.

Senator WARNOCK. Sure.

Mr. STARKS. Yes. Thank you for the question, Senator. Thank you for your hard work and leadership here. You know, I believe the issue of, you know, connecting these vulnerable households has never been more important, helping to see them through the pandemic, helping to see them—find their way to new jobs, get the job training that they need, helping to connect young learners.

You know, at the FCC, we obviously have—do have specific outreach programs. We have, you know, the navigator program, the competitive outreach program. Some of that also is for tribal. I in particular have a, your home, your Internet program that is focusing on helping those that are in public housing, those that are in a public housing authority on Section 8, those in particular, there are very low numbers of those folks that are low income households that are enrolled in our ACP program, and so I have a pilot program specifically focusing on this.

And I have traveled all around the Nation to see this in particular. And the last thing that I would say is, you know, I have traveled extensively there in Georgia, traveled to Albany, Georgia, to Cuthbert, Georgia, even very downstate. ACP is equally important there, even in very rural areas. And so, our focus——

Senator WARNOCK. Especially in our rural areas and thank you so much for your work there. Mr. Carr, same question.

Mr. CARR. Thank you, Senator. One of things that we have done is stand up an outreach grant program to have third parties help spread the word about ACP. That is something that the Infrastructure Act called for.

As I have traveled, I have also done events, I sort of highlighted—I did a roundtable, Senator Luján's staff, for instance, in New Mexico to raise it. And it is a very important issue. And also, I just separately want to thank you for your work, including on rural broadband issues. You have a precision agriculture legislation with Senator Thune. I think it is a really smart initiative and can make a difference here.

Senator WARNOCK. And that is an important piece of legislation. Proud to work on it with my colleague, Senator Thune. But if people don't have a broadband connection, then it is for naught. But the issue is both access and affordability.

Thank you all so very much. We need an all hands on deck approach. Broadband is to the 21st century what electrification was

to the 20th century. We have got to make sure that people aren't left behind. Thank you.

Senator LUJÁN. Thank you, Senator Warnock. I will recognize myself for questions. First to everyone here, just thank you for making yourselves available. And the support from family is great to see. Where I come from, that matters, and you all are willing to put a pause on your personal lives to be here to support people you love.

Thank you. Ms. Gomez, welcome. It is good to see you, and I am hopeful, based on what I heard today, that we could have five FCC Commissioners here very soon, and an Inspector General. I think that is critically important, but I hope everyone watching and reading will continue to send letters of support for you, because it has been incredible for me to see the letters of support that have come in for you, Ms. Gomez.

And I appreciate that, and I want to thank everybody as well. Not to say that they are not coming in for you too Commissioners, but being that this is the first nomination, if you will, of what I hope will be many for Ms. Gomez.

Now, Ms. Gomez, to me, it is vital to promote competition at the FCC and within the ability that we have to look at the industry to prevent digital redlining, to promote equal access and opportunity for everyone across America.

That was the intent of the legislation leading to $65 billion, $42.5 for buildout, in addition to additional appropriations to the NTIA in previous years. So, in all of this, we also have to protect consumers. We have to support consumers. Now, my question to you is a simple yes or no, Ms. Gomez. Can the FCC do more to protect consumers?

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes, Senator.

Senator LUJÁN. And what are your thoughts on how Congress and the FCC, with what we can do to guarantee consumer protections or protect privacy, promote competition among broadband providers?

Ms. GOMEZ. Well, Senator, I think it is important that the FCC exercise its oversight over broadband Internet access service. It is so central to our lives, to our economy, to innovation. It is just an incredibly important service to the Nation and to its international competitiveness.

As such, it needs to have the jurisdiction to perform that oversight. I do support Congress legislating, if that is in the cards. But if not, I think I would support the FCC also acting to ensure that oversight.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. And that leads me to my next question. And Commissioner Starks, this is for you. Yesterday, an incredible leader in the House, Doris Matsui, was asking a series of questions around robocalls.

I am not going to ask everyone here to raise their hands if they don't like robocalls, because that will take a long time. No one likes them. I got one just now. There was a spam call that just came across my mobile phone. Something has got to happen here. There have been efforts in the past.

People have raised this. There has been legislation adopted. But bad people know how to find loopholes. Sometimes they create loop-

holes, and they exploit them. And this is the new way of theft, right? It is not that someone is necessarily going to grandma and grandpa's door. They are calling them on the phone.

They are sending a spam text or e-mail and they get someone to click, and then they prey on them, and it is bad. And there is so much money being stolen from people. Yesterday, I was proud to introduce the FCC Legal Enforcement Act with Representative Matsui to ensure the FCC has the enforcement authority it needs to go after robocallers who break the law.

Now, I know the FCC is working hard in this arena, as I said. I am very concerned of these predatory actors are getting more and more aggressive. So, Commissioner, again, yes or no, would increasing FCC enforcement authority help the agency crack down on robocalls?

Mr. STARKS. Yes, it would, Senator.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that very much. I hope we can get support to get this one done. Commissioner Carr, you and I agree that edge providers, the companies that benefit most from new broadband users online should also contribute to universal service model connecting unserved and underserved communities.

I think online advertising is a straightforward approach. Now, USF contributions are currently assessed on telecommunications services. You know, long distance calls, which the technology shifted—and I mean, we have got to get this right.

But in doing so, modernize the USF, which I appreciate that there is a bipartisan effort in the Congress, but the editorial that you also wrote on this. My question is, what do you see with the future of USF contributions?

Mr. CARR. Well, thank you, Senator, for the question. And thank you for your leadership on this. I know the task force that you are working on, on this issue is going to be very important. Simply put, the status quo is not acceptable.

Universal service right now is stuck in a debt spiral. The revenues that we assess, traditional telephone revenues have declined from $80 or $90 billion a number of years ago, down to $30 billion now.

And so, we have a 30 percent assessment in order to fill that USF expenditures right now. Left untouched, there is one study that showed that that 30 percent could go to 75 percent assessment on top of a traditional telephone bill.

I don't think that is sustainable. So, I think now is the time that we have to have conversations like you are doing in this task force to come up with a bipartisan view on the future of USF.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. Now, Ms. Damelin, thank you as well for being here, and I look forward to your swift confirmation as well.

You have been nominated for such an important job, given all the topics, the authorizations, the investment, the appropriation, taxpayer dollars that are being invested to improve everyday life all across America.

Cracking down on that waste, fraud, and abuse is going to be critically important. As I just shared with robocalls, that is just one example of predatory folks that are out there. And I am looking for-

ward to the work that you will do, and I am hoping you won't find anything.

But if you do, I certainly hope that there is swift action taken to make sure that people that are doing bad things are stopped. You have strong experience in public service working with a wide array of agencies and departments. In my research, always showing independence, which I appreciate.

Now, yes or no, does strong coordination between agencies prevent Government waste?

Ms. DAMELIN. Yes.

Senator LUJÁN. Are there more ways we can work together to encourage to bring these agencies a Government wide approach to improve inter-agency collaboration on this basis?

Ms. DAMELIN. Yes. Thank you for the question. We need a whole of Government approach to protecting Federal funds, and that has been the movement.

Recently OMB issued a memo on that, talking about gold standard meetings and the need to meet with agencies. Very similar to what Commissioner Carr has said before, at the outset of funding to share risks and ideas for protecting funds. And I have had experience throughout my career in this.

At NSF, we protected—we had oversight over a $2 billion a year small business program, two programs that were administered through over 11 agencies. And what we did was we worked with the other IGs, and we worked with the agencies, and we worked with law enforcement, you know, partners across the country to protect those funds. We brought everybody into the same room together.

We trained, we provided outreach, and our goal was to help the agency succeed. So, thank you for that.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. We had a wise Governor to serve the State of New Mexico, grew up on a ranch, and he was often quoted as saying that, you know, "you should bring them all in the barn and not let them out until they solve the problem."

And sometimes my simple way of getting things done embraces that lesson that we learned from Governor King. One issue I did want to raise as we close out the hearing is on digital redlining and discrimination, to get some clarification, if I may, based on our visit, statements, things of that nature.

And I have shared this with several of you, if not all of you, that I have spoken to. Recently, there was a submission by some folks into this particular rulemaking that said, "it would be inappropriate to compare core urban or dense suburban area to a rural area." The analogy that was then given to me was, you know, being on that long dirt road.

And if—how do you connect everyone down that long dirt road, based on what I just said? That is right. Probably not going to be possible. Well, I live down a long dirt road and I worked on this legislation.

I voted on this legislation. And legislative intent to me seems that the priority was to connect unserved and underserved. It turns out there is a lot of them in rural America. So, my question, Commissioner Starks is this is, do you believe that expected return from a low income area is grounds for a company to discriminate,

whether intentionally or unintentionally, against our most rural and most low income communities while using Government funds to build out their networks?

Mr. STARKS. Absolutely not. I would not tolerate that.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. And Commissioner Carr, along the lines of the $42.5 billion in digital discrimination and the questioning from the Ranking Member as well, when we spoke, we were talking about the disparate impact question, and my recollection was when I asked a question, it was something—the response was, I still need to look at this to—or you are reading it, you are looking into it, and you are looking at the record, things of that nature.

But what I heard with the response to Senator Cruz today was a more direct response associated to the disparate impact question. Can you provide some clarification for me to understand where things are and what I see as a change from the two?

Mr. CARR. Yes, sir. Thank you so much. You know, my view, I think what I answered to the Senator was I think something more than merely effect is what is needed. And I think that is the same thing I said to you, which is to say there could be situations in which if you only have only effect, that there could be other reasons to explain it.

So, for instance, the example that I gave was the L.A. County, L.A. City. So, if all you have is data of effect, and that the answer to the reason for that effect is a regulatory regime that was very, very different, then that is a situation which I think affect alone isn't enough. I think we should talk about too is this idea is, do you need a smoking gun? Is that the only thing, a smoking gun intended to get us there?

And I think no. I think there are things short of smoking gun that that could be sufficient evidence to qualify for discrimination. So, I think there is room between those two polls, and I am very open ended, and open minded at this point as to how we sort of resolve that.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that clarification. And what I want to close with is, look, there is a lot of rulemaking and work that goes on with telecommunication policy, whether it is at the FCC, NTIA, or State public regulation commissions.

As many of you know, I was proud to serve on New Mexico's Public Regulation Commission, which is the equivalent to public utility commissions all across America. On my first day into that position, someone gave me something similar to this, which is Newton's telecom dictionary.

And it is the worst of acronym soup. You know, you all probably, I could go through—I am not going to quiz you. That is not what this is for. My point is, a lot of this is derived from legislative efforts, rulemaking, things of that nature. Some of it good, most of it good, but some of it—creating space for bad activity.

And my point on all of this with the digital discrimination, with redlining, and I have shared this with industry, don't create the damn loopholes. I am sorry to break the quorum in here, but if we create a path for people to hide behind something and say, well, you know, what I am doing is, you know—I don't know what word to use, make up a word.

And then I am going to say that is what I am doing. I am making apple pie. I am not discriminating against anybody. Then the people that we are trying to get connected are not going to get connected and then we are going to be back again. I mean, this is the same thing with railroad safety.

The reason that a lot of this nonsense is happening is because loopholes are created. And it is one thing to say something in public. It is another thing, no offense to the lawyers in the room who are watching, when the legal teams responsible for working with the FCC in this case are filing their comments with the intent to make loopholes.

Let's not let it happen. That is what I am hoping we can do here, and I don't want to get into specific definitions. Don't create loopholes. Don't support creating loopholes. And to the industry, don't try to make loopholes. And then we won't have loopholes. And then everyone gets connected.

So, I am just hoping that that is where we can get as well. And even though I am one of the most junior members on the Committee, someone made the mistake of giving me this when I walked in. That is why I have gone over on my time. I apologize to all the staff and everyone I have kept here.

Thank you all for being here. Thank you for your commitment to doing good. We don't always agree on the approach, but we often agree on what we want to accomplish. And I hope that is the driver with all that we want to achieve here. There is so much on the line right now, that I thank you for accepting these responsibilities at this moment in time.

Now, before we close today's hearing, I have one more question which is asked to all the nominees. If confirmed, will you pledge to work collaboratively with this committee, provide thorough and timely responses to our requests for information as we put together and address important policy issues, and appear before the Committee when requested? Mr. Starks.

Mr. STARKS. Absolutely, yes.

Senator LUJÁN. Ms. Gomez.

Ms. GOMEZ. Yes.

Senator LUJÁN. Mr. Carr.

Mr. CARR. Yes, Senator.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that.

Ms. DAMELIN. Yes.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate the response. I will leave it there. Now, thank you all for that commitment. Senators will have until close of business Tuesday, June 27, to submit questions for the record to the Committee.

Witnesses will have until close of business Wednesday, July 5, to respond to those questions.

Thank you all very much. The hearing has concluded.

[Whereupon, at 12:25 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

A P P E N D I X

June 1, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce Committee
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Confirmation of Federal Communications Commission Nominees

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

We are writing as a collection of trade associations representing a broad cross-section of the innovation economy to urge the Senate Commerce Committee to move expeditiously to confirm President Biden's renomination of Commissioners Brendan Carr and Geoffrey Starks and the President's nomination of Anna Gomez to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC).

Together, our members include established and ascending companies in consumer-facing and business-to-business technologies, software, information and education services, as well as emerging technologies such as virtual reality and artificial intelligence, supporting tens of thousands of jobs and driving U.S. leadership in innovation. Our members rely on a functioning FCC that is fully staffed at the Commissioner level to advance policy issues critical to our ability to help promote a strong economy and maintain our nation's competitiveness.

FCC Commissioners Carr and Starks are proven leaders and dedicated public servants who warrant swift reconfirmations. Likewise, Ms. Gomez is highly qualified for the position of FCC Commissioner. She has extensive experience in technology and telecommunications policy and a long record of seeking bipartisan solutions. She is widely respected for her work in the industry, including when she previously served in positions at the FCC and NTIA, and she possesses the experience, wisdom, and leadership required to make an excellent FCC Commissioner.

We need a fully functioning FCC to advance our goals of bridging the digital divide and connecting every American to affordable, high-speed broadband. Given the upcoming expiration of the sitting Commissioners' terms, and the importance of filling the fifth Commissioner slot that has remained vacant for far too long, we encourage the Committee to hold a joint hearing for the three nominees as quickly as possible and to advance their nominations. We recognize that the Senate has a busy calendar filled with pressing national issues; however, we respectfully urge

you to speed the confirmation process so that our industry has the certainty it needs with an agency that has all five Commissioner slots filled as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Morgan Reed
President
ACT | The App Association

Gary Shapiro
President and CEO
Consumer Technology Association

Adam Kovacevich
Founder and CEO
Chamber of Progress

Linda Moore
President and CEO
TechNet

Chip Pickering
CEO
INCOMPAS

Shirley Bloomfield
CEO
NTCA–The Rural Broadband Association

ALAAmericanLibraryAssociation

June 16, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chairwoman
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
511 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
512 Hart Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairwoman Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz:

The American Library Association (ALA) supports the nomination of Anna Gomez to the open seat on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). We also support the renomination of commissioners Brendan Carr and Geoffrey Starks to their respective seats on the FCC. We urge the committee to confirm these nominations with due haste, in the interest of allowing the FCC to continue its work promoting competition, innovation and investment in broadband services and facilities for all Americans without further hinderance.

Gomez, when confirmed, would restore the FCC to its full capacity and allow the agency to operate more effectively. She brings a wealth of knowledge in public service and telecommunications policy, with experience within the FCC, the State Department, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, and as a partner at Wiley Rein. Throughout these positions, Gomez has acted as an advocate for Americans seeking reliable, affordable broadband connections. She has also recognized and encouraged the role of public libraries in expanding access to broadband in rural and underserved communities.

Commissioner Starks, in his capacity as an FCC Commissioner, has consistently supported the expansion and implementation of universal service programs, such as E-Rate. Starks has used his time as Commissioner to strive to ensure all Americans are protected from intrusive data collection and selling practices, removing communications barriers for low-income communities, and, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic, retain vital Internet access. Starks has regularly acknowledged and supported the role of libraries as providers of universal service.

Commissioner Carr, as an FCC Commissioner, has acted in support of universal service, particularly towards improving broadband access in rural and tribal communities. Carr has led on 5G infrastructure, telehealth, and workforce development. Commissioner Carr has particularly stressed the importance of ensuring tribal libraries can access E-Rate funding, empowering them to serve as hubs for their communities and improving connectivity for the area.

The ALA urges the Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation to act rapidly to confirm all of these nominated individuals. We eagerly await the opportunity to work with a fully functional FCC to the benefit of all Americans.

Sincerely,

/s/ Alan Inouye
Senior Director, ALA Office of Public Policy & Advocacy

/s/ Megan Janicki
Deputy Director, ALA Office of Public Policy & Advocacy

/s/ Larra Clark
Deputy Director, ALA Office of Public Policy & Advocacy

cc: Members, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

June 22, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Chair, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Ranking Member, U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & **Transportation**
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Letter of Support for the Record, June 22, 2023, Hearing on **"Nominations Hearing: FCC - Anna Gomez to be a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (PN673);** Brendan Carr to be **a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (Reappointment) (PN672); Geoffrey Starks to be a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (Reappointment) (PN674)"**

Dear Chair Cantwell and Ranking Member Cruz,

The Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) strongly supports the nomination of Anna Gomez to be a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) and the renominations of Brendan Carr and Geoffrey Starks to be Commissioners of the FCC.

The Fiber Broadband Association (FBA) is the only national association focused on connecting every home, business, and community in North America working to accelerate the deployment of fiber broadband networks to ensure digital equity and enable every community to leverage economic and **societal benefits that only fiber can deliver. FBA represents close to 500 member companies from all areas of the broadband access industry.**

The U.S. is in the midst of an enormous investment cycle to bring high performance broadband service, especially fiber connectivity, to every household, business, and anchor institution, as well as to support 5G/6G, smart cities and grids, and other advanced technologies and applications. To help make that happen, we need a five-member Federal Communications Commission **composed of expert and thoughtful Commissioners. The pending** nominees **certainly meet those high standards.**

We especially want to recognize the qualifications of Anna Gomez, as this is her first time being considered to be a Commissioner to the FCC. Ms. Gomez has over **twenty-five years of experience working on telecom issues, spending many of those years in public service. She has** spent her career working to ensure that broadband is accessible to all Americans, which will be **an invaluable contribution to the FCC as the country continues to ensure the digital divide is closed once and for all.**

The Fiber Broadband Association looks forward to working with all nominees to get fiber broadband deployed universally.
Sincerely,

Fiber Broadband ASSOCIATION

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June 27, 2023

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
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The Honorable Ted Cruz
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NHCSL
National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators

Executive Committee Leadership

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Re: Supporting Anna Gómez for the Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

Dear Senators Cantwell and Cruz:

On behalf of the National Hispanic Caucus of State Legislators (NHCSL), I write in support of the nomination of Anna Gómez to serve as Commissioner at the FCC. Her vast knowledge and experience in telecommunications make her an outstanding nominee. Gómez has spoken at NHCSL on the role broadband plays in federal infrastructure investments and we are convinced that, as Commissioner of the FCC, she would protect the interest of consumers, advocate for robust regulatory authorities, push for the inclusion of communities of color in the policymaking process, and support a pro-competition innovation agenda.

For over 30 years, the NHCSL has represented Hispanic state legislators across the country, today numbering over 400, through policy work and advocacy in Washington, DC and in state capitols. We work in a bipartisan manner on a wide array of policies ranging from encouraging small business development and growth, to equitable employment and educational opportunities, equal access to technology, quality healthcare and affordable housing. One of our objectives is to advocate for the appointment of qualified Hispanics to important positions in government.

Anna Gómez has 17 years of service in the public sector, including 12 years in various roles throughout the FCC and four years as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA). She has also worked at the U.S. Congress and the White House. Throughout her distinguished career, Gómez has always discharged her duties with the interest of consumers in mind, not just as subscribers or users, but as stakeholders in a broader ecosystem of telecom, tech, and media products or services.

This includes consistently supporting the FCC's statutory authority to combat violations of consumer protection rules, prevent high fees for international calls, and advance universal service goals so that everyone throughout our country has access

to affordable and ubiquitous broadband and voice communications. She recognizes access to the internet means economic mobility and job creation, new educational opportunities for students, and keeping people connected with friends and family and their support systems.

While serving as Deputy Assistant Secretary at NTIA, she strongly supported an innovation agenda that encompassed effective and pro-competitive spectrum policies with sufficient allocation for both licensed and unlicensed spectrum to unleash continued innovation; a collaborative process amongst federal agencies for the creation of a spectrum pipeline to continue to meet the ever-growing private sector demand for spectrum resources; supporting deployment and adoption of broadband to unserved and underserved communities; and the creation of a robust ecosystem to deploy advanced applications and services supporting the communications needs of public safety and first responder communities. We have no doubt that, as Commissioner, Gómez would ensure **that any industry consolidation subject to the FCC's review does not harm consumers or** competition and advances the public interest.

Anna Gómez believes a truly open internet does not allow for discrimination against those who use it to work, learn, and connect with the world around them and beyond. She is committed to supporting the FCC's Title II Authority to protect broadband consumers' ability to use the internet to its fullest potential without gatekeepers, barriers, or boundaries.

Now that the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law has provided our country with a once-in-a-generation opportunity to connect everyone in America to high-speed internet, we are confident that Gómez will apply her invaluable experience and skill set to balance the interests of various public and private sector stakeholders and guide the Commission toward the impactful disbursement of federal broadband funding. She will help close the digital divide and ensure that the 24 million Americans that do not have high-speed Internet ––and the millions more with limited, unreliable or no Internet connection–– have access to broadband.

In fact, Gómez participated in a 2021 National Hispanic of State Legislators conference panel on the role broadband plays in federal infrastructure investments and Latino communities. There, she addressed the urban/rural/tribal divide on access and planned, strategic and tailored solutions to close the existing gap. We have witnessed firsthand her expertise, her understanding of nuances, capabilities, and commitment to making su**re that the country's ambitions goals are met and** surpassed, leaving no community behind.

If confirmed, Anna Gómez will be the first Hispanic to serve as Commissioner in more than 20 years. The NHCSL strongly urges you to vote in favor of confirming her to serve as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Sincerely,



Kenneth Romero

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BRIAN SCHATZ TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Question 1. Do you commit to ensuring universal fixed broadband deployment to all Tribal homes and businesses?

Answer. Yes. I am committed to Internet for all—that means everyone, everywhere, including in Tribal areas.

Question 2. Do you commit to ensuring universal mobile broadband deployment, including to all Tribal homes and businesses and along Tribal roads?

Answer. Yes. I believe that mobility provides Tribes with access to essential services—including emergency services. That's why I am committed to Internet for everyone, everywhere, including in Tribal areas, and including mobile services.

Question 3. Do you commit to adopting additional Tribal priority access windows, just like in the 2.5 GHz auction, where it is feasible and in the public interest to do so?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. When the United States auctions spectrum located over the lands of an Indian Tribe it does not share any portion of the proceeds with the Tribe, which is a sovereign government. Should the United States allocate a portion of these revenues to a Tribe or dedicate a portion to advancing universal and affordable communications services on the Tribal lands?

Answer. I believe that universal access to affordable communications services is vital in Tribal areas. As a commissioner, I have visited Tribal lands and listened to Tribal leaders in many parts of the country. I have witnessed first-hand the unique challenges that many Tribes face with broadband deployment, and the heightened importance of connectivity to their economic development and the improvement of their members' day-to-day lives. I also have seen growing success and interest in self-deployment and spectrum access and have heard specifically from Tribal communities on the issue of Tribal consent. I appreciate your leadership on issues affecting Tribes. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you and Congress on solutions that respect Tribal sovereignty and bring us closer to our goal of connecting all communities, everywhere, including on Tribal lands.

Question 5. Do you commit to expanding access to unlicensed spectrum? What bands do you view as the most promising opportunities to expand unlicensed access?

Answer. I believe that the FCC, Congress, and other agencies must work together to develop a strong spectrum pipeline for wireless services in the United States. That includes spectrum for our unlicensed networks, which provide essential local and last-mile connections for consumers and a low-barrier platform for sustained wireless innovation. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on identifying particular bands as part of this effort.

Question 6. Please provide your analysis of how well the FCC's new broadband maps portray the availability of broadband on Tribal lands. Should the FCC display Tribal boundaries just as it displays state boundaries? If not, why not? Should the FCC provide the number of locations associated with individual Tribal areas, in addition to offering an aggregated rollup of the number of Tribal locations and Tribal broadband availability nationwide? Are there changes you believe the FCC needs to adopt with respect to how it displays broadband availability on Tribal lands?

Answer. Our maps have come a long way since their initial release and will continue to improve over time. I strongly believe that as they continue to improve, our maps should work better for all communities—including Tribal communities. To date, the Commission has worked to improve the accuracy and portrayal of broadband availability on Tribal lands. For example, the area summary page on the National Broadband Map allows a user to view a particular Tribal area and displays the percentage of corresponding units covered, by speed of reported services, within the specified Tribal area. I would support the map including Tribal boundaries as another potential improvement. Additionally, Commission staff is currently working to add location counts to the geography summary download available on the data download page of the map that provides the unit counts associated with Tribal areas and other geographic areas. I support this effort.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on further improvements that can enhance the experience and accuracy for Tribes and respect their sovereignty. It is vitally important that our maps include all broadband serviceable locations, including Tribal locations, and are easy to navigate for all users.

Question 7. In 2011 the FCC committed to working with Tribal communities and ensuring connectivity by establishing the FCC Native Nations Communications Task Force. This commitment was renewed in 2018 for three years. Since 2021, the

term of the Commission has been extended annually. Do you commit to making this Task Force permanent?

Answer. Yes. I believe the Task Force serves a vital role and should be continued.

Question 8. As the most populated remote place in the world, Hawaii has unique broadband needs, particularly with respect to inter-island and transpacific submarine cables. The State currently has significant plans in place to build inter-island submarine cables and to incentivize transpacific submarine cable landings. Can I have your commitment that you will not interfere with the State's plans and, to the extent it ever becomes necessary, that you will help ensure that Hawaii has the inter-island and transpacific submarine cable connectivity it needs?

Answer. I appreciate that Hawaii is not just predominantly rural but also extremely remote—and that its location and geography poses unique broadband deployment challenges. I also appreciate that in light of these challenges, subsea connectivity, including inter-island connectivity, is vital to ensure robust, reliable, and resilient communications throughout the State. That's why I was excited to learn about Hawaii's broadband allotment under the Capital Project Fund, the bulk of which will support the State's subsea middle-mile program. I look forward to working with you on ways that the Commission can support Hawaii's broadband needs.

Question 9. In 2020, the FCC Native Nations Communications Task Force published "Recommendations for Improving Required Tribal Engagement Between Covered Providers and Tribal Governments." Since publication, what steps has the FCC taken to meet these recommendations?

Answer. The Commission has taken several steps to advance the goals of the Task Force's report. For example, to improve outreach and engagement with Tribes, the FCC's Office of Native Affairs Policy (ONAP) commenced a Tribal Library Tour, which has resulted in ten FCC site visits since December 2022 to discuss the E-Rate program. In addition, the FCC has held several consultation and listening sessions on the pending E-Rate rulemaking. The FCC also has conducted significant outreach to Tribes on the Affordable Connectivity Program, including webinars on the ACP Outreach Grant Program and in-person presentations at six locations since March 2023. The FCC also has participated in Tribal workshops hosted by Tribes to discuss a variety of FCC broadband initiatives, including the Broadband Data Collection and mapping, ACP, E-Rate, and other USF support programs. ONAP also has improved its webpage and e-mail distribution system, which it regularly has used to disseminate messages to Tribal leaders on upcoming funding and educational opportunities and related Commission activities. These activities have taken place alongside ongoing meetings of the Native Nations Communications Task Force, which have provided additional opportunity for coordination between the FCC and Tribes.

The FCC also has worked to ensure compliance with Tribal engagement requirements. In February 2022, the Wireline Competition Bureau, in collaboration with ONAP, requested additional information from four recipients of high-cost support regarding their Tribal engagement certifications and their plans to comply with the requirement going forward, leading to the filing of supplements to Form 481 in FCC WC Docket Nos. 10–90 and 14–58.

In addition, in November 2022, the FCC, NTIA, and the Department of Interior executed a Memorandum of Understanding to increase coordination among Federal agencies to promote broadband and wireless deployment on, and expand access to spectrum over, Tribal lands and Hawaiian home lands. Separately, in July 2022, the FCC established the Enhanced Competition Incentive Program (ECIP) to expand opportunities for Tribal Nations, small carriers, and rural wireless entities to gain access to licensed spectrum. The Program will incentivize secondary-market transactions that put spectrum in the hands of qualifying entities. Recognizing the unique connectivity challenges that Tribes face and the need to facilitate their access to spectrum, our ECIP rules expressly include Tribal Nations as an additional eligible beneficiary under the program.

Our work on this matter continues. I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on additional steps the FCC can take to expand connectivity on Tribal lands.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH TO GEOFFREY STARKS

I am concerned about the lack of coordination that took place between the FCC, NTIA, and the FAA during the initial rollout of 5G.

We averted an aviation crisis—barely—in January of last year when President Biden's Administration helped broker a deal to delay full rollout of 5G to give airlines time to retrofit their altimeters to avoid interference.

If aircraft are not retrofitted by July 1st, they might not be able to conduct lower visibility approaches and may need to divert.

What I find so frustrating is that none of this confusion and delay should have been necessary. The FCC and FAA should have better coordinated much earlier in the process. The clear lack of coordination amongst industry and government stakeholders to consider all impacts of spectrum use and facilitate desired outcomes negatively impacted aviation and broader stakeholders, including those in the telecommunications sector seeking to deploy and utilize spectrum.

There needs to be more accountability at FCC and collaboration and risk mitigation planning between the FCC, NTIA, and agencies like the FAA whose industries will be impacted by new telecommunication technologies.

Unfortunately, when we've asked the FCC about its willingness to be more forthcoming with the FAA, we've heard a reluctance to do so.

Question 1. What additional authority, if any, does FCC need to share more information and better collaborate about new communication technology, including risk mitigation planning, earlier in the process with impacted agencies such as the FAA?

Answer. I strongly believe that effective interagency collaboration on spectrum matters is essential and thank you for your leadership on this important issue. Since the adoption of the C-band Order in 2020, the FCC has established much more regular communication between the agencies to enhance spectrum coordination. In February 2022, the FCC and NTIA established a new Spectrum Coordination Initiative to address gaps in interagency coordination and promote a whole-of-government approach to spectrum policy. In August 2022, the Commission and NTIA entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding to increase coordination on spectrum matters, including by providing more advance notice of proposed actions that could potentially impact the operations of other agencies and facilitating the more regular exchange of information at both the staff and leadership level. The FCC also has continued to maintain a designated liaison on each of the subcommittees of the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee, which is comprised of representatives from 19 different Federal agencies. I look forward to working with you on additional steps Congress can take to enhance our collaboration across government, including with agencies such as the FAA

Question 2. Can I have your commitment that you will use all existing authority to ensure spectrum policy addresses safety issues, to collaborate and do risk mitigation planning on new communication technology with impacted agencies like FAA?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN HICKENLOOPER TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Wireless Emergency Alerts. Wildfires continue to increase in their frequency and devastation across the U.S. In Colorado, the Marshall Fire wreaked havoc on the Boulder community as first responders fought to suppress the fire and evacuate residents. After the Marshall Fire, we learned the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system was not used due to longstanding concerns about the geolocation accuracy of alerts being delivered to devices in a specified area.

I, along with Senator Bennet, sent a letter to the Commission encouraging action and adoption of items found in the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) entitled *"Improving Public Reporting on Wireless Emergency Alert Reliability",* including steps to improve the geolocation accuracy of WEA alerts sent to cellular devices. We were pleased to see the Commission release the results of its nationwide test of the WEA system, which included participation from first responders in Colorado. This nationwide test demonstrated that while "91.9 percent of volunteers located within the target areas received a test alert", mobile devices over 3 miles outside a target area still received an alert, indicating that "geofencing works approximately one third of the time."

Question 1. Commissioner Starks, what technological, regulatory, or other barriers do you believe prevent the Commission from adopting stronger standards regarding the geolocation accuracy and delivery of alerts sent through the WEA system?

Answer. I agree that WEA is vitally important, and that we must work to improve its performance and reliability. We have several proceedings underway seeking to do just that. For example, specific to your concern, our April 2023 Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FNPRM) proposes new reliability requirements for WEA

participants, including with regard to geotargeting accuracy. That item also seeks to make WEA more accessible, by proposing, among other things, delivery of alerts in additional languages beyond English and Spanish.

Our proceedings are informed by experts directly involved in the origination, delivery, and receipt of WEA alerts. In December 2022, the Commission's Communications Security, Reliability, and Interoperability Council VIII (CSRIC VIII) issued a report to the FCC on WEA performance and reliability, focusing on issues raised by both Alert Originators and the cellular industry. The FCC incorporated CSRIC VIII's learnings into the April 2023 FNPRM.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on additional steps the FCC can take on this important public safety issue.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. RAPHAEL WARNOCK TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Affordable Internet Access. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's broadband infrastructure investments have put the United States on the cusp of closing the digital divide. Closing this gap will allow millions of Americans to access the Internet and connect with others in education, health care, and numerous other sectors. That said, broadband infrastructure is just half of the equation. Without investments in digital equity and affordability, many Americans will struggle to afford this new infrastructure and may continue to be left behind in the digital age. One of the hallmarks of Federal digital equity and affordability resources is the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a monthly Internet service discount and one-time discount for households to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet.

Question. In addition to encouraging ACP enrollment, what more can the FCC do to help address barriers to accessing devices and continued issues of Internet affordability for middle and low-income families and historically marginalized communities?

Answer. I strongly agree—every American deserves access to broadband that is affordable. The Universal Service Fund is also an important tool to address barriers to devices and broadband affordability. The Commission recently submitted its *Future of Universal Service Fund Report* to Congress, which discusses possible paths forward for the Universal Service Fund. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you to discuss potential solutions.

Question. What mechanisms would you add to measure the impact of the ACP on closing the digital divide and improving broadband affordability, and how would you regularly share that data with states to better inform local digital inclusion work?

Answer. I agree that we must work closely with states on closing the digital divide. In the 2021 Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, Congress on a bipartisan basis required the Commission to promulgate rules requiring providers participating in ACP to submit data on the price and subscription rates of Internet service offerings received by households enrolled in the program. The Commission's rules, adopted unanimously on a bipartisan basis, established an aggregate approach requiring providers to submit to the Commission plan characteristics, price, and subscription rate information at the ZIP code level for all plans that are subscribed to by an ACP-enrolled household. The Commission will make available to the public non-provider specific data, aggregated at the state level, on the average or median prices of plans in which ACP subscribers are enrolled within designated speed tiers and data on the number of subscribers within those tiers. Additionally, the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act directed the Commission to promulgate regulations to require the display of broadband consumer labels, which include prices, introductory rates, speeds, and other information.

I would welcome the opportunity to continue to work with you on this important issue.

Question. Can public-private partnerships help improve broadband affordability in high-need and high-cost communities? If so, what more can the FCC do to encourage these partnerships?

Answer. Partnerships with local government, trusted community leaders, and community organizations have helped to enroll Americans in programs such as ACP. These partnerships often build on existing relationships between unconnected Americans and community members, and help the private sector reach unconnected Americans where they are. The FCC will continue to rely on these partnerships to bring households online, including through our ACP Outreach Grant Program.

Question. What is your best estimate of when the ACP will come to an end if Congress does not provide additional authorization and appropriations? What would the impact be on families if the ACP program came to an end?

Answer. The impact on families would be distressing—and potentially lifechanging. Enrolled households could lose access to healthcare, employment, and the opportunity to build the digital skills they need to succeed in the 21st century. They could lose access to online government services and the ability to benefit from online career education. Their children could lose access to the connection they need to keep up with schoolwork. Even if they manage to pay to maintain access, they would face the risk of disconnection if they suffer a job loss or reduced hours—moments when their need for connectivity would be especially strong. Fundamentally, connectivity is about access to opportunity. For many of these families, a connection would not be the only thing lost. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Question. Following the implementation of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, millions of Americans, particularly in high-cost areas, will have Internet service and access for the first time. What should the FCC do to ensure this new service remains affordable after the conclusion of the BEAD program, especially in high-cost areas?

Answer. Congress and the FCC are both considering the future of broadband affordability and the FCC's Universal Service Fund. The Commission recently submitted its *Future of Universal Service Fund Report* to Congress, which discusses possible paths forward for the Universal Service Fund to continue to support affordable access to communications, including in high-cost areas. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on these important issues.

Supporting Local Media.

Question. What tools can Congress give the FCC to strengthen localism and media diversity?

Answer. The FCC currently has underway two quadrennial review proceedings, in which, as required by Congress, we review our media ownership rules to determine whether they serve competition and are in the public interest. As the Supreme Court unanimously recognized as recently as 2021, our public interest analysis involves consideration of localism and diversity. I will continue to be guided by our core considerations of competition, localism, and diversity in considering these rules. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss ways to advance these goals with you.

Universal Service Fund.

Question. Do you believe the FCC has authority to act on modifying the Universal Service Fund?

Answer. I believe that Section 254 of the Communications Act gives the FCC authority to adopt certain modifications to the Universal Service Fund.

Question. What do you believe needs to be done to reform the Universal Service Fund?

Answer. As the Commission said in its *Future of USF Report,* I believe that the FCC should work and coordinate closely with Congress on reforms to the Universal Service Fund. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss potential changes with your office.

Question. What can Congress do to support reforming the Universal Service Fund in a positive way?

Answer. As mentioned, I believe the FCC should work closely with Congress on potential reforms that promote fund sustainability, access, and affordability. I look forward to coordinating with you as we consider potential solutions to reform with the Congress.

Buy America Compliance for Broadband Programs. On February 9, 2023, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a draft rule entitled "Guidance for Grants and Agreements," which detailed statutory authority for the Made in America Office in OMB to maximize and enforce compliance with Made in America laws.[1] This draft rule lays out guidance for defining construction versus manufactured materials and provides implementation guidance to Federal agencies on the application of Buy America preference to Federal financial assistance programs for infrastructure and a transparent process to waive such a preference when necessary.[4] The application of a final rule on this matter will be critical in the rollout

[1] *https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/09/2023-02617/guidance-for-grants-and-agreements*

of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which will provide $42.45 billion in funding to states for planning, deployment, and adoption of high-speed Internet access.[2] The definitions of broadband infrastructure and its components such as fiber optic cable and optical glass under a final rule, and thus their applicability to Build America, Buy America requirements, will impact how many producers will be able to supply the infrastructure needed to implement the BEAD program. Overall, it is important that states, municipalities, and their contractors have access to the necessary infrastructure to implement BEAD and that this infrastructure is affordable and able to be delivered on an efficient timeline in order to maximize the efficacy of the BEAD program.

Question. Do you believe it is important to have multiple Build America, Buy America compliant producers of optical glass to ensure the efficient distribution of fiber under the BEAD program?

Answer. I believe that Federal investment in American infrastructure should support the creation of American jobs, and I thank you for your leadership on this issue. With respect to BEAD, the Department of Commerce is responsible for implementing BABA requirements. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on other ways we can support our broadband workforce. As I have said before, building networks that reach every American is a central challenge of our generation. In that challenge lies opportunity—not just for the newly connected, but also those who will do the connecting.

Spectrum Use. In March 2023, the FCC's authority to auction spectrum lapsed for the first time in three decades.[3] It is crucial that spectrum be allocated fairly, while protecting the American security interests that utilize spectrum bands.

Question. How can the FCC more effectively work with other Federal agencies responsible for regulating spectrum use?

Answer. I agree that our future success in wireless depends on effective interagency collaboration. Over the past several years, the FCC has established much more regular communication between the agencies to enhance coordination on spectrum matters. In February 2022, the FCC and NTIA established a new Spectrum Coordination Initiative to address gaps in interagency coordination and promote a whole-of-government approach to spectrum policy. In August 2022, the Commission and NTIA entered into a new Memorandum of Understanding to increase coordination on spectrum matters, including by providing more advance notice of proposed actions that could potentially impact the operations of other agencies and facilitating the more regular exchange of information at both the staff and leadership level. The FCC also has continued to maintain a designated liaison on each of the subcommittees of the Interdepartmental Radio Advisory Committee, which is comprised of representatives from 19 different Federal agencies. I look forward to working with you on additional steps to improve interagency collaboration.

Question. How can the FCC effectively allocate both licensed and unlicensed spectrum resources to drive innovation?

Answer. I agree that the FCC, Congress, and other agencies must work together to develop a strong spectrum pipeline for wireless services in the United States. That includes both licensed and unlicensed networks. I believe that restoring FCC auction authority will be an essential step, as will progress on the development and implementation of the Administration's National Spectrum Strategy. In the meantime, the FCC's work on bands that do not have significant Federal incumbencies continues. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on these matters.

Question. What steps can the FCC take to work with the those who won licenses for the 2.5 GHz spectrum band, while still working with congressional and administration leaders to extend the Commission's auction authority?

Answer. I believe that 2.5 GHz is an essential band for 5G and should be deployed to the greatest extent possible. I am also mindful that because the auction sold overlay licenses in unused "white spaces," many of the licenses pending assignment are in rural areas in need of greater wireless opportunity. I am willing to work with anybody on a path forward that results in this spectrum being turned on for consumers. In this band and others, I agree that the reinstatement of FCC auction authority would provide the clearest path forward.

Question. What steps can the FCC take to work with Congress and other Federal agencies to resolve concerns about L-band spectrum terrestrial use?

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[2] *https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program-0*

[3] *https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairwoman-rosenworcel-expiration-spectrum-auction-authority*

Answer. I appreciate your leadership on spectrum coordination matters. As I mentioned above, we have substantially improved interagency coordination over the past several years. I believe that our future success in wireless depends on using those tools to collaborate effectively on all interagency spectrum matters, including use of the L-band. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Question 1. Should the Standard General-TEGNA Hearing Designation Order have been voted on by the full Commission, rather than issued under the Media Bureau's delegated authority? Yes or no.

Answer. The merger-applicants twice challenged the FCC's procedure, and the D.C. Circuit twice denied their appeals. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you and Congress on changes to the law that you believe would improve agency process.

Question 2. Were you or your staff notified about the Standard General-TEGNA Hearing Designation Order prior to its release by the Media Bureau or FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel's office? If so, how many hours' notice were you or your staff given?

Answer. Chairwoman Rosenworcel notified me the day the Hearing Designation Order was released on February 24, 2023, several hours before its release. Shortly after she notified me, one of her staff members notified one of my staff members.

Question 3. Have you or any of your staff had any communications with Byron Allen or any board member, employee, or contractor of Allen Media Group or Entertainment Studios regarding the Standard General-TEGNA transaction? If so, please provide all documents concerning those communications and identify the dates on which any meetings or oral communications took place and the subject of those communications.

Answer. No.

Question 4. When we met in my office, you stated that there was FCC precedent for issuing a hearing designation order under delegated authority regarding a broadcast transaction. You identified this precedent as Lake Broadcasting. Are you aware that this transaction involved a single FM radio translator that did not originate its programming? And that this FM translator's stated value was approximately $1,000?

Answer. Yes.

Question 5. Are you aware, in contrast, that the Standard General-TEGNA transaction was a multi-billion-dollar transaction for more than 60 full-power TV stations and two full-power radio stations?

Answer. Yes.

Question 6. Are you aware that the FCC Media Bureau issued the hearing designation order in the Lake Broadcasting case because the applicant was a felon convicted of multiple counts of sexual assault against children and had previously misrepresented himself before the Commission?

Answer. Yes.

Question 7. Are you aware that the full Commission had already made clear in past rulings that such illegal conduct can be disqualifying?

Answer. Yes.

Question 8. Are you aware that in Standard General-TEGNA, there were no character issues or misrepresentations?

Answer. Yes.

Question 9. Are you aware that the Media Bureau relied on novel interpretations of the Commission's public interest standard and appeared to ignore—if not contradict—the Commission's precedent "that an increase in retransmission consent rates, by itself" does not constitute a public interest harm?

Answer. The Hearing Designation Order addresses this precedent in paragraph 23. It states that "[w]hile the Commission ultimately held in [the *Nexstar/Tribune*] case that an increase in retransmission consent rates, by itself, was not necessarily a public interest harm, it was careful to qualify its holding." The Hearing Designation Order goes on to discuss the Bureau's view that the proposed transaction falls within the scope of those qualifications, and that "caselaw makes clear that increases in retransmission consent rates can constitute a public interest harm if such

increases are not simply the product of a properly functioning competitive marketplace."

The merger-applicants twice challenged the FCC's procedure, and the D.C. Circuit twice denied their appeals.

Question 10. Do you still maintain that Lake Broadcasting is precedent for the Media Bureau's issuance of the Standard General-TEGNA hearing designation order under delegated authority?

Answer. Yes. In her letter responding to your inquiry regarding this transaction, Chairwoman Rosenworcel stated that Lake Broadcasting is one of several examples of a hearing designation order issued by the Media Bureau on delegated authority. Additional cases not cited in her letter may exist as well. Furthermore, the merger-applicants twice challenged the FCC's procedure, and the D.C. Circuit twice denied their appeals.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with you and Congress on changes to the law that you believe would improve agency process.

Question 11. At a 2021 address before the Media Institute, you stated that constitutionality and confidentiality questions concerning the FCC's collection of EEO data were "stale questions." What did you mean by this statement?

Answer. By "stale," I meant that the FCC's record on this matter was old and warranted a refresh. That's why in the same address, I said that I "welcome the debate" over outstanding concerns—"constitutional or otherwise"—regarding the collection of this data. A few months later, the FCC unanimously, on a bipartisan basis, adopted a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to "refresh the existing record regarding the statutorily mandated collection of data on the FCC Form 395–B." The bipartisan Further Notice "seek[s] to update the record to better inform the Commission's consideration of" constitutional questions and "specifically asks for any additional input on the outstanding issue" of whether data reported on the form "should be kept confidential."

Question 12. Local broadcasters have been in a dogfight with big tech behemoths and AM stations are facing the existential threat of being de-platformed by automakers. I fear the FCC could make things even worse by reimposing outdated ownership burdens on local stations—a threat that may loom large over the media's coverage of the 2024 election and distort what gets reported and when. My view is simple: The FCC should not be in the business of leveraging its power over journalists to influence elections. To protect the integrity of the media's coverage of the election, will you commit to oppose any action to reimpose broadcast ownership restrictions in the year leading up to the 2024 election?

Answer. I unequivocally support the protection of election integrity.

Local broadcasters play a critical role in our media ecosystem, including with regard to news reporting and election coverage. The FCC is statutorily required to review our media ownership rules that affect these broadcasters every four years to ensure they serve the public interest. We currently have two such proceedings pending.

On December 13, 2018, the Commission released a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking commencing the 2018 quadrennial review. This NPRM sought comment on the three media ownership rules in effect, and whether, in their current versions, they served the public interest. Those rules are: the local radio ownership rule, which regulates how many radio stations one entity may own in a market, *see* 47 C.F.R. § 73.3555(a); the local television ownership rule, which regulates how many TV stations one entity may own in a market, *see* 47 C.F.R. § 73.3555(b); and the dual network rule, which effectively prohibits a merger between any of the four major broadcast television networks (ABC, CBS, Fox, and NBC), *see* 47 C.F.R. § 73.658(g).

This proceeding is still pending. It was delayed by the appeal of the FCC's prior media ownership decision issued in 2017. In that decision, the Commission eliminated several media ownership rules, including the newspaper/broadcast cross-ownership rule and the radio/television cross-ownership rule, and relaxed other existing rules, including the local television ownership rule. Plaintiffs appealed. In 2019 the Third Circuit vacated and remanded the bulk of the Commission's 2017 decision. This called into question the rules under review in the 2018 Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. Ultimately, in 2021, the Supreme Court unanimously reversed the Third Circuit's decision. However, by that point, nearly two years had passed since the original comment period closed for the 2018 NPRM. The Media Bureau issued a public notice refreshing the record, and that proceeding remains pending.

While the 2018 review is still pending, the Media Bureau timely commenced the 2022 quadrennial review by issuing a public notice on December 22, 2022. In this notice, the Bureau sought comment on the same three rules currently in place—the local radio ownership rule, the local television ownership rule, and the dual network

rule. The notice quotes the Commission's statutory obligation, from Section 202(h) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, to assess whether these rules remain "necessary in the public interest as a result of competition," and seeks comment on the impact of the existing rules in today's media marketplace.

The responsibility that Congress bestowed on the FCC to continually reevaluate the media ownership rules is one I take seriously. If you believe that mandate is at odds with our shared objective of ensuring election integrity, I would welcome a conversation with you about your concerns.

Question 13. You have stated that you oppose broadband rate regulation. I would like to better understand what you mean by this. Clarity is especially important since there are many ways the FCC could attempt to regulate rates beyond setting broadband rates on an *ex ante* basis. Please define what you meant by broadband rate regulation when you made your previous statements opposing broadband rate regulation. Yes or no: Do you consider *ex post* review of providers' broadband prices a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support giving such power to the FCC.

Answer. I oppose broadband rate regulation. Whether a particular action qualifies as such could depend on the facts and circumstances. Should these matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 14. Yes or no: Would FCC declaring a broadband provider's rate unlawful on the grounds that it is not "just" or "reasonable" constitute a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support giving such power to the FCC.

Answer. I oppose broadband rate regulation. Whether a particular action qualifies as such could depend on the facts and circumstances. Should these matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 15. Yes or no: Is the 2015 net neutrality order's mandate that broadband service providers provide free terminating access to edge providers a form of rate regulation?

Answer. I oppose broadband rate regulation. Whether a particular action qualifies as such could depend on the facts and circumstances. Should these matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 16. Yes or no: If the FCC were to prohibit "zero-rating" by broadband providers, would that be a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support such a prohibition.

Answer. I oppose broadband rate regulation. Whether a particular action qualifies as such could depend on the facts and circumstances. Should these matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 17. Yes or no: If the FCC were to prohibit usage-based pricing, would that be a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support such a prohibition.

Answer. I oppose broadband rate regulation. Whether a particular action qualifies as such could depend on the facts and circumstances. Should these matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 18. Yes or no: If the FCC were to require broadband providers to provide "wholesale" unbundled access to their networks, would that be a form of rate regulation?

Answer. I oppose broadband rate regulation. Whether a particular action qualifies as such could depend on the facts and circumstances. Should these matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 19. Yes or no: Do you support requiring broadband providers to provide wholesale unbundled access to their competitors?

Answer. See answer to Question 18 above.

Question 20. In 2020 California implemented a new rule precluding companies participating in the state's Lifeline program from charging low-income customers a

co-pay for certain subsidized plans. Yes or no: Do you consider the prohibition on a co-pay in this context to be a form of rate regulation?

Answer. The Federal Lifeline program that the FCC administers is distinct from the California LifeLine program and does not include the prohibition you describe. Whether an analogous rule adopted by the FCC might qualify as rate regulation could depend on the facts and circumstances. Should these matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 21. Yes or no: If the FCC were to require broadband providers to offer a specific cost tier, such as a low-income offering, would that be a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support such a requirement, and if so, how do you determine what a "low-income" price is without setting a rate?

Answer. The FCC declined to set a particular "low-income" rate for providers participating in the Affordable Connectivity Program. I supported that decision. Should related matters come before me as a commissioner, I would carefully review the record before reaching a decision and would welcome the opportunity to discuss them with you if they are of interest to your office.

Question 22. Are you concerned that any harms could result from reclassification of broadband Internet access service under Title II? If so, what are those harms?

Answer. I believe any such action would require a new rulemaking under the Administrative Procedure Act. The record developed during such a rulemaking would inform my thinking on the costs and benefits of reclassification in light of developments in technology, law, and consumer usage.

Question 23. FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel wants the FCC to investigate the imposition of data caps on broadband service plans. As you know, broadband service is currently classified as an information service not subject to Title II regulation under the Communications Act. Pursuant to what authority can the FCC investigate broadband data caps?

Answer. Chairwoman Rosenworcel has proposed that the FCC adopt a Notice of Inquiry to better understand data caps and their impact. Unlike investigations that seek to uncover potential violations of an existing rule, Notices of Inquiry are administrative tools used to generate feedback before a rule is even proposed. Among many questions, the Notice of Inquiry seeks comment on the Commission's legal authority to take actions regarding broadband data caps. If the Notice of Inquiry were adopted, I would review the record and carefully consider the question of our authority before supporting or opposing any subsequent step.

Question 24. If the FCC determines that it wants to regulate broadband data caps, under which statutory provision could the FCC impose such regulations?

Answer. See response to Question 23.

Question 25. In the press release announcing that FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel would ask the Commission to investigate broadband data caps, it stated that the FCC would evaluate "whether the Commission should consider taking action to ensure that data caps do not cause harm to competition or consumers' ability to access broadband Internet services." Under the FCC's current statutory authority and the classification of broadband services as information services, what actions could the FCC take with respect to broadband data caps?

Answer. See response to Question 23.

Question 26. Should broadband be free for low-income Americans?

Answer. I believe that to close the digital divide, broadband must be affordable.

Question 27. You've previously said, "The Affordable Connectivity Program [ACP] has achieved significant results this year—over 13 million eligible households have signed up to receive discounted or free broadband! This growth is worth celebrating, even more so because outreach and development has been organic, without a separately funded FCC outreach effort." Is the program's popularity ipso facto proof of its benefits?

Answer. I believe that enrollment in ACP demonstrates much more than the program's popularity. It also demonstrates that millions more Americans are secure in their access to broadband and the opportunities that broadband can deliver in a 21st-century economy. In addition, it demonstrates an overall increase in the value of American networks, which benefit from a broader and more stable user base. More fundamentally, ACP enrollment demonstrates the success of the program as Congress defined it. Congress established the eligibility criteria for the program in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, and the FCC has followed them. Currently, over 19 million households have enrolled. That's a figure that Congress and the country can be proud of.

Question 28. Eligibility criteria for the ACP are estimated to sweep in 40 percent of U.S. households, over 70 percent of whom were already broadband subscribers prior to the ACP. In May, the largest recipient of both Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) and ACP funds stated, "[t]he vast majority of the [ACP] customers we have were already existing customers who are now benefiting from that benefit." Does this statement raise any concerns for you regarding the efficiency of the subsidy? If so, please describe your concerns.

Answer. While I am unfamiliar with the basis for the numbers reported in your question, the efficiency of ACP is among my highest priorities, and I agree that the FCC must be a responsible steward of taxpayer funds. Congress established the eligibility criteria for ACP in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. Eligibility is capped at households earning 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or households participating in Federal assistance programs, tribal assistance programs, or Lifeline. The FCC has followed these eligibility criteria.

Today, a high-speed Internet connection is critical to participate fully in American society. But studies have shown that low-income households are more price sensitive and tend to have an irregular income. For low-income families who are already broadband subscribers, ACP ensures that they can stay connected month after month—even during times of financial stress, when the pressure to cancel service and the benefits to retaining it are both at their peak. ACP also can help households climb to the speeds they need to make full use of the internet. For other low-income families, ACP provides the means to become broadband subscribers for the first time. I have had the opportunity to meet families across this country who are benefiting from ACP, and I can tell you that for these recipients, access to affordable broadband is often a life changer.

Question 29. Do you believe ACP subsidies are effectively targeting households that would otherwise not subscribe to broadband?

Answer. I believe that ACP subsidies are effectively targeting the eligible households specified by a bipartisan Congress. The FCC has followed these eligibility criteria.

Question 30. Do you believe the FCC has developed effective processes to identify low-income households that do not already subscribe to broadband service?

Answer. I believe the FCC has developed effective processes to identify the eligible households specified by a bipartisan Congress. The FCC has followed these eligibility criteria.

The Commission has partnered with other agencies administering ACP qualifying programs and undertaken extensive outreach opportunities to identify target subscribers. Additionally, the FCC has created the ACP Outreach Grant Program, which provides grants to local outreach partners who are well-positioned to identify eligible households in their local communities. One of the factors the FCC considers when awarding grants under the ACP Outreach Grant Programs is "the extent to which an applicant would target unserved low-income households or individuals that are not currently on a low-income broadband plan or do not have broadband service."

Question 31. Do you believe the FCC has developed sufficient goals and metrics to track the ACP's effectiveness and progress over time?

Answer. Yes. I also believe that the FCC should always look for ways to improve its programs. In creating the ACP, the FCC unanimously, on a bipartisan basis, established three performance goals after an expedited 60-day rulemaking mandated by Congress. These goals are to (1) reduce the digital divide for low-income consumers; (2) promote awareness of and participation in the ACP; and (3) ensure efficient and effective administration of the ACP. The Commission continues to work hard to improve ACP. As part of that process, and in response to a GAO report from January, the Commission acknowledged that ACP's performance goals should evolve to more specific and clearly defined targets. I agree with that assessment and that the FCC should coordinate with GAO to improve its programs. I look forward to closely reviewing the FCC's response to the GAO's specific recommendations, which is forthcoming.

Question 32. GAO has criticized the FCC for its failure to develop specific goals and metrics to track ACP's effectiveness and progress over time. Do you agree with these concerns?

Answer. The GAO report goes on to state in its conclusions that "the FCC's efforts to establish program performance goals and measures, dedicate funds to outreach and translate its outreach materials into non-English languages, and conduct a program fraud risk assessment demonstrate its commitment to the program's success." I share that commitment and believe we should always look for ways to improve ACP. The GAO's January 2023 report identified nine recommendations to help the

Commission enhance ACP's performance goals and measures. I support the Commission's effort to respond to these recommendations and believe that doing so in coordination with GAO will further improve the program. I look forward to closely reviewing the FCC's response to the GAO's recommendations, which is forthcoming.

Question 33. In 2016, the Universal Service Administrative Company contracted Grant Thornton Public Sector LLC to conduct an independent program evaluation of Lifeline. Have you read this report?

Answer. Yes.

Question 34. Do you agree with the recommendations in the Grant Thornton report?

Answer. I agree that the FCC should continue to look for ways to improve its programs.

Question 35. Do you think the recommendations in the report should have been implemented in setting up the ACP program?

Answer. Some of the report's recommendations were incorporated into ACP. For example, the report's recommendation that the FCC integrate the National Verifier with state eligibility websites has benefited both Lifeline and ACP. Additionally, to administer ACP, the FCC uses connections with Federal and state eligibility databases to automatically verify applicants' eligibility whenever possible to streamline the application process. The National Verifier has 23 connections to different states and territories, and four connections to Federal databases (CMS, HUD, Dept. of Education, and VA). All of those connections were established after the Grant Thornton Report was completed. I am always open to any ideas or recommendations on how we can improve our programs.

Question 36. Do you believe that the FCC has adequately implemented the Grant Thornton report's recommendations in setting up the ACP?

Answer. I believe the FCC has taken significant steps to protect against waste, fraud, and abuse in ACP. In setting up ACP the Commission learned from administering the Emergency Broadband Benefit and Lifeline programs. The Commission also coordinated with its Office of the Inspector General and incorporated many of OIG's recommendations.

For example, among others, the Commission incorporated the following protections into ACP:

- *Use of the National Verifier, NLAD, and RAD.* The Commission implemented the National Lifeline Eligibility Verifier (National Verifier) and National Lifeline Accountability Database (NLAD) to make eligibility determinations, prevent duplication, and record enrollment systems for ACP.
- *Requiring Households to Interact Directly with the National Verifier.* As required in the Lifeline program, the Commission required households to interact directly with the National Verifier during the eligibility verification process.
- *Requiring both Independent Audits and USAC Program Integrity Reviews.* The Commission adopted additional USAC-led reviews for particular high-risk areas, such as duplicate addresses, household eligibility documentation, and alternative verification processes.
- *Sales Agent Commission-Compensation Rules.* The Commission imposed limits on providers paying commission-based compensation to representatives tasked with enrolling individuals in the program.
- *Provider Removal Process.* The Commission established a provider removal process, which gives the FCC the ability to quickly question providers if they have a trend of troubling consumer complaints or concerns related to waste, fraud, and abuse and remove them from the program if appropriate.
- *Prohibition Against Tying FCC Discounts.* The Commission prohibited providers from linking a subscriber's prior consent in a different context to consent to enroll in ACP.

Our Office of Inspector General is currently conducting an audit of ACP, and I look forward to working with OIG to the extent the audit identifies additional steps for the Commission to consider.

Question 37. Do you believe the FCC has adequately communicated with participating providers to prepare for potential lapses in ACP funding?

Answer. I believe that we should continue to work with Congress on these matters given that our present statutory directive is to continue enrollment and ACP relies on Congressional appropriations. Providers receive ACP information via a provider bulletin managed by USAC. The FCC works closely with USAC to make sure nec-

essary communications are shared with providers. Additionally, FCC staff is available to answer questions.

Question 38. You've recently travelled to different states promoting the ACP program to expand enrollment. Do you think it a good idea to be promoting and actively expanding subscriptions when the funding might lapse soon?

Answer. I think that Congress directed us to get eligible households enrolled including by conducting outreach for the program.

Question 39. I understand that when the ACP program was being designed, FCC Commissioners Carr and Simington pushed to include the IG's recommendation to require ACP applicants to include the last four digits of their social security number to help the FCC identify fraud more quickly. Did you support this recommendation?

Answer. Congress established the eligibility criteria for ACP in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act. In doing so, Congress specified that households with a student on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program were eligible for ACP and that households participating in the Women, Infants, and Children Program were eligible for ACP. Neither program requires a social security number to enroll. In order to fully implement the program as Congress intended, the FCC provided alternative options for participants to prove their identity (*e.g.,* provision of a military ID or passport). While applicants may also submit the last four digits of their social security number, permitting these alternatives ensures that all participants in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and WIC are able to apply for ACP, as Congress prescribed. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you if you have concerns.

Question 40. I understand that some on the left, including the National Hispanic Media Coalition, called FCC Commissioners Carr and Simington "xenophobic" for taking this position and claimed that they "used their positions as leaders of a Federal agency to dehumanize and disrespect the immigrant community."

Answer. I do not support personal attacks on my colleagues.

Question 41. Do you submit your last four digits of your social security number when you file your taxes? Yes or no.

Answer. Yes.

Question 42. Is this requirement xenophobic? Yes or no.

Answer. No.

Question 43. Is FCC Commissioner Carr xenophobic? Yes or no.

Answer. No.

Question 44. Is FCC Commissioner Simington xenophobic? Yes or no.

Answer. No.

Question 45. To address ongoing waste, fraud, and abuse in the program, would you support the adoption of the IG's recommendation—that applicants provide last 4 digits of their social security number—today?

Answer. As discussed in my response to Question 39, the FCC did not implement this recommendation because it would have limited the ability of participants in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and Women, Infants, and Children Program to participant in ACP, as Congress required. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss this issue with you if you have concerns.

Question 45a. Could Commissioner Starks clarify his answer to the question below? Why would requiring last four digits of SSN "have limited the ability of participants in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and Women, Infants, and Children Program to particip[ate] [sic] in the ACP"?

Answer. Congress established the eligibility criteria for the ACP in the IIJA. In the IIJA, Congress specified that households with a student on the Free and Reduced Lunch Program were eligible for ACP and that households participating in the Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC) were eligible for ACP. Neither program requires a social security number to enroll.

Thus, an active participant in either the Free and Reduced Lunch Program or WIC may not be able to enroll in ACP, contrary to Congressional intent, if we were to otherwise require the last four digits of a social security number. In order to fully implement the program as Congress intended, the FCC provided alternative options for participants to prove their identity (*e.g.,* provision of a military ID or passport). While applicants may also submit the last four digits of their social security number, permitting these alternatives ensures that all participants in the Free and Reduced Lunch Program and WIC are able to apply for ACP, as Congress prescribed.

Question 46. In 2022, the FCC's IG issued a memo to the FCC regarding the significant and ongoing fraud scheme and other threats to the ACP program's integrity. The FCC's IG found, for example, that more than one thousand households

were enrolled based on the eligibility of a single 4-year-old child who receives Medicaid benefits. Please describe how the Commission could correct flaws in the ACP program's design and management to prevent such waste, fraud, and abuse to occur.

Answer. When the Commission has become aware of any concern in the program, including by the Inspector General, it has swiftly investigated and corrected any mis-use of the program's funds. This includes the instance above, when the FCC announced additional program integrity measures surrounding the enrollment of households in the Affordable Connectivity Program based on a Benefit Qualifying Person on the same day that the IG issued its memo.

In addition, the Commission has considered and implemented a number of changes to ACP to protect the program's integrity in light of feedback from the OIG. Examples of these changes include: strengthening the certifications that providers must make to participate and claim reimbursement from the program, explicitly requiring providers to search their internal records for potential intra-company duplicate subscribers prior to enrolling subscribers in ACP, making changes to the National Verifier to prevent certain types of duplicate enrollments, implementing a multi-level quality assurance review process for eligibility documentation, and establishing rules to prevent conflicts of interest between ACP outreach grant recipients and ACP provider.

Question 47. You said it is "imperative and consistent with [the FCC's] telecom programming to allow Wi-Fi on buses." What is the specific provision of the Communications Act that you believe authorizes the FCC to subsidize Wi-Fi on buses?

Answer. Section 254 of the Communications Act authorizes the FCC's Universal Service Program, including the E-Rate program. Specifically, Section 254(h)(1)(B) of the Communications Act requires telecommunications carriers to provide services to schools and libraries for "educational purposes," subject to reimbursement. According to the Commission's rules, "activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students" qualify as "educational purposes."

Question 48. Do you believe Wi-Fi on buses eligible for E-Rate would enhance educational outcomes?

Answer. Yes. Many students in rural communities face long bus rides to and from school. More and more school lessons and assignments require the internet. Giving young learners the opportunity to do their homework while on the school bus means they have more time to attend to their studies. This is especially the case for students who otherwise may not have access to broadband at their home.

Question 49. If Wi-Fi on school buses became eligible for E-Rate, how would you track the effectiveness on the subsidy, in terms of specific goals and metrics?

Answer. The Commission has identified three specific goals for E-Rate, as set forth in the *E-Rate Modernization Order.* They are: (1) ensuring affordable access to high-speed broadband sufficient to support digital learning in schools and robust connectivity for all libraries, (2) maximizing the cost-effectiveness of spending for E-Rate supported purchases, and (3) making the E-rate application process and other E-Rate processes fast, simple and efficient. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss additional metrics that you believe we should consider.

Question 50. Last year, the FCC abruptly reversed its decision to authorize nearly $900 million to Starlink to provide high-speed broadband to hundreds of thousands of rural homes and businesses across 35 states. This decision comes at a high cost to taxpayers. It's been estimated that funding high-speed fiber broadband to the areas Starlink was previously awarded will cost $2 billion *more than* Starlink could have provided with low-earth orbit satellite service. And this estimate doesn't even account for inflation since 2020. Do you support this decision by Chairwoman Rosenworcel?

Answer. Starlink has filed an Application for Review of Wireline Competition Bureau's decision, which is currently pending.

In a statement I made when the FCC released the *Rural Digital Opportunity Fund Procedures Public Notice,* I said that "next-generation satellite broadband holds tremendous technological promise for addressing the digital divide and is led by strong American companies with a lengthy record of success." I further stated that Commission staff should evaluate low earth orbit satellite systems applications on their own merits. I believe low earth orbit satellite systems are an important part of closing the digital divide.

Question 51. Do you think a bias against wireless technologies violates the Commission's binding responsibility to promote technological neutrality in its administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF)?

Answer. Yes.

Question 52. If confirmed, will you commit to advocating for technology-neutral policies across FCC proceedings?

Answer. Yes.

Question 53. The previous FCC led by former Chairman Pai provided critical relief from state and local obstacles that increased costs and delayed deployment of "5G small cells." Eliminating such burdensome regulations has been critical for American leadership in 5G; in the aftermath of the previous FCC's reforms, the number of cell sites in the U.S. increased by 35 percent between 2016 and 2021, after increasing only 1 percent between 2013 and 2016. What are ways the agency can expand upon the previous FCC's permitting reforms?

Answer. I believe that wireless infrastructure drives economic growth, job creation, and innovation, and that unnecessary permitting delays slow its deployment. I would highlight the need to streamline procedures for siting facilities on Federal lands and to better equip state and local governments to handle new applications.

Question 54. Will you commit to preserving the previous FCC's permitting reforms and expanding upon them during your tenure?

Answer. I commit to working with you and Congress on our shared goal of achieving robust wireless infrastructure deployment.

Question 55. In our meeting, you committed that any efforts to reverse the Restoring Internet Freedom Order must be preceded by a fresh record. Do you still hold by this commitment?

Answer. Yes.

Question 56. At a recent subcommittee hearing on May 11, 2023, several Democrat witnesses advocated assessing USF taxes on broadband service. Are you concerned that imposing a USF tax on broadband service would make broadband more expensive, particularly for lower-and middle-income consumers?

Answer. As the Commission said in its *Future of USF Report,* I believe that we should work closely with Congress on any potential reforms to Universal Service Fund contribution requirements.

Question 57. Do you have any reservations about taxing the very service the subsidies are meant to promote? Please explain.

Answer. I believe that we should work closely with Congress on any potential reforms to Universal Service Fund contribution requirements.

Question 58. If you become Chairman, will you commit to maintaining former Chairman Pai's policy on publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote?

Answer. Yes.

Question 59. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally supporting maintaining Chairman Pai's policy on publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote?

Answer. Yes.

Question 60. If you become Chairman, will you commit to making non-meeting items (referred to as "circulates") public at the same time Commissioners are considering them?

Answer. Chairman Pai's initiative has shown that the public release of meeting items is a helpful practice. We do not have precedent for the public release of non-meeting items, however, so I would need to carefully consider such a policy with staff, my colleagues, and interested parties.

Question 61. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally supporting making circulates public at the same time Commissioners are considering them?

Answer. Chairman Pai's initiative has shown that the public release of meeting items is a helpful practice. We do not have precedent for the public release of non-meeting items, however, so I would need to carefully consider such a policy with staff, my colleagues, and interested parties.

Question 62. If you become Chairman, will you commit to allowing any two Commissioners to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote?

Answer. I believe that FCC Chairs should be willing to engage and listen to their fellow Commissioners in crafting internal policies, and I would commit to considering this policy carefully with my colleagues if I were Chair. Under Section 5 of the Communications Act and the rules adopted pursuant to it, the Chair of the FCC has unique duties and responsibilities to manage and set the priorities of the agency, including the responsibility "generally to coordinate and organize the work of the Commission in such a manner as to promote prompt and efficient disposition of all matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission."

Question 63. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally supporting allowing any two Commissioners to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote?

Answer. I believe that FCC Chairs should be willing to engage and listen to their fellow Commissioners in crafting internal policies, and I would commit to considering this policy carefully with my colleagues irrespective of whether I become Chairman. Under Section 5 of the Communications Act and the rules adopted pursuant to it, the Chair of the FCC has unique duties and responsibilities to manage and set the priorities of the agency, including the responsibility "generally to coordinate and organize the work of the Commission in such a manner as to promote prompt and efficient disposition of all matters within the jurisdiction of the Commission."

Question 64. If you become Chairman, will you commit that you will not block a large transaction without a Commission vote?

Answer. I commit to looking at the facts and circumstances of all transactions that come before me and to process them according to the law. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you and Congress on changes to the law that you believe would improve agency process.

Question 65. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally opposing the Chairman/Chairwoman if they block a large transaction without a Commission vote?

Answer. I commit to looking at the facts and circumstances of all transactions that come before me and to speak up if they are not processed according to the law. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you and Congress on changes to the law that you believe would improve agency process.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN THUNE TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Question 1. During the hearing, I asked you if you believe the FCC should come to Congress for more direction before attempting any iteration of net neutrality rules and you answered "No." However, you could not provide a single harm that has happened since the FCC's 2017 Restoring Internet Freedom Order. I'd like to ask again, since the FCC's 2017 order to repeal the heavy-handed Obama-era Title II regulations, what sort of activities have ISPs engaged in that the FCC would need Title II authority? What specific harms have you seen?

Do you support Federal legislation on net neutrality, or do you believe it is preferable for the rules to be determined by the party in control of the FCC? If you support Federal legislation, do you support the pre-emption of states to ensure consumers are provided a consistent set or protections when using the Internet?

Answer. While the President from a particular party holds the power to appoint a majority of the FCC's commissioners, I value and subscribe to the Commission's role and mission as an independent agency. I support and would prefer Federal legislation on net neutrality and would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue. In the absence of legislative action, however, I believe the FCC has authority to act. In my view, any FCC action revisiting this issue would require a new rulemaking under the Administrative Procedure Act. The record developed during such a rulemaking would inform my thinking on the matters you have raised. Should the matter come before me, I would carefully review the record on issues including reported cases of throttling and their public safety impacts, and changes in access to poles necessary for broadband deployment. I also would review the record on the impact of state laws on the broadband market, among other questions relevant to any reclassification inquiry.

Question 2. The previous FCC led by former Chairman Pai provided critical relief from state and local obstacles that increased costs and delayed deployment of "5G small cells."

Will you commit to preserving the previous FCC's reforms and expanding upon them during your tenure?

Answer. I believe that wireless infrastructure drives economic growth, job creation, and innovation, and that unnecessary permitting delays slow its deployment. I commit to working with you and Congress on our shared goal of achieving robust wireless infrastructure deployment.

Question 3. "Yes" or "no," do you think the FCC should regulate the rates charged for broadband services? If so, what would your proposal for broadband rate regulation look like?

Answer. No. I do not believe the FCC should regulate the rates charged for broadband services.

Question 4. The Universal Service Fund at the FCC, particularly the High Cost Program, has had a significant impact on states like South Dakota that have large rural areas. Do you believe it is important to provide rural broadband providers, particularly rate of return carriers, regulatory certainty in the USF program?

Answer. It is vital that rural broadband providers have regulatory certainty in the USF programs, and I will continue to work with my colleagues at the FCC, as well as you and your colleagues in Congress, to provide such certainty.

Question 5. In addition to the FCC's programs aimed at closing the digital divide, NTIA, USDA, and the Department of Treasury are disbursing funds to support the buildout of broadband networks.

How would you characterize the coordination between the FCC, NTIA, and USDA given that they all have programs that support broadband? Are you concerned that programs administered by NTIA, Treasury, and RUS are going to overbuild FCC-funded locations? What steps can the FCC take to ensure these programs do not overbuild other federally funded networks?

Answer. I agree that agencies administering broadband deployment funding programs must coordinate effectively and ensure that we make the most of scarce Federal resources. To advance this important goal, Section 60105 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act required the FCC to "establish an online mapping tool to provide a locations overview of the overall geographic footprint of each broadband infrastructure deployment project funded by the Federal Government." The FCC released the Broadband Funding Map on May 15, 2023. Consistent with the Broadband Data Act, the Commission will release updated versions of the map no less than twice a year. I believe the Broadband Funding Map will be a vital tool for ensuring that we are spending scarce resources appropriately.

Question 6. The FCC took the bold step to lead the world by allocating all 1,200 MHz of the 6 GHz band for unlicensed services. As we prepare for the WRC in November 2023, we are asking the world to follow in our footsteps and unlock the band's potential for global Wi-Fi connectivity. I am concerned because the Commission has yet to authorize the use of VLP, enable standard power through AFC, or increase power limits through LPI. Finalizing these outstanding items seems critical to demonstrate our leadership globally.

What steps can the FCC take to bolster the U.S. delegation's position heading into WRC?

Answer. I appreciate your interest in this band and its global harmonization. I also share your view that the U.S. delegation must be in a position of strength for the WRC. In my statement supporting the 6 GHz Order, I said that our "decision to make 1200 megahertz in the 6 GHz band available for unlicensed use holds special promise" for the millions of Americans that rely on Wi-Fi in their homes and other venues across the Nation. I also said that I "look forward to a rapid resolution of the issues presented in [our] Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking." Over the past several months, proponents of expanded unlicensed operations and 6 GHz incumbents have continued to submit and refine their coexistence analyses. Given the potential of this band and its important existing uses, getting the engineering right is vitally important.

Question 7. Chair Rosenworcel announced recently that she would be asking the Commission to vote on a Notice of Inquiry examining the practices of broadband providers imposing so-called data caps on consumer broadband plans. Do you think there is a pervasive industry problem with respect to data caps that warrants the FCC spending its time and resources to examine this practice?

Answer. I believe it is important that the Federal Communications Commission be vigilant in seeking to protect consumers. Chairwoman Rosenworcel's circulated Notice of Inquiry seeks to help the FCC determine whether a problem with respect to data caps exists, and if so, whether the Commission has authority to, and should, act. If adopted, I look forward to reviewing the record to determine whether this is an area that warrants further FCC attention.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JERRY MORAN TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Question 1. Do you believe the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is properly targeting Americans who would not otherwise have broadband service? What changes would you make to ACP to ensure it is properly targeting Americans who would not otherwise have broadband service?

What can be done to simplify and streamline Federal broadband affordability programs? What should be done to ensure Federal broadband affordability programs, including Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program, do not have overlapping objectives?

Answer. I agree that it is vitally important for the Commission to act as a good steward of public funds used in its programs. With ACP, I believe the program is properly targeting the eligible households specified by Congress. Congress established the eligibility criteria for ACP in the bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Eligibility is capped at households earning 200 percent of the Federal Poverty Guidelines, or households participating in Federal assistance programs, tribal assistance programs, or Lifeline. The FCC has followed these eligibility criteria.

In the IIJA, Congress also directed the FCC to submit a report on the future of the Universal Service Fund (USF). Consistent with that report, I believe that the Commission should continue to coordinate closely with Congress on potential reforms to USF contribution requirements and the future of USF. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Question 2. While significant resources have been provided to NTIA to bridge the divide for fixed services, the FCC has an opportunity to make sure that rural communities and small towns have access to mobile connectivity and the benefits of 5G wireless services. However, the rules for the 5G Fund were adopted in 2020 and may need to be updated for changes in technology and to reflect the release of the FCC's broadband maps.

Do you believe the 5G Fund should allocate support to rural areas lacking quality 5G, based on the FCC's new maps?

Answer. Yes, and I appreciate your ongoing interest in this important issue. I strongly believe that we must do more to make high-quality broadband services, including 5G wireless services, available in our rural communities. That's why I previously emphasized the importance of proceeding based on reliable mapping data that does not leave rural Americans behind. While much of our recent attention has focused on the National Broadband Map for fixed broadband services, our work on improving maps for mobile broadband services is also well underway. Once released, those maps will help us determine where mobile service exists and where it is lacking and should be used to identify areas in need of support.

Question 3. A topic of the June 21 House Energy & Commerce Committee FCC oversight hearing was whether the full commission should be required to vote on mergers and acquisitions that fall under the FCC's purview, in light of the FCC's treatment of the Standard General—TEGNA attempted merger.

Setting aside the question of whether the Chair currently has the authority to defer mergers and acquisitions to an administrative law judge without a full committee vote, as occurred in the TEGNA case, do you believe this policy needs to be amended, to ensure the full Commission is able to weigh in?

Answer. Agency accountability is important to me, and I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on changes in policy that you believe would improve agency progress. Further, I believe that FCC Chairs should be willing to engage and listen to their fellow Commissioners in crafting internal policies. I would want to gain their input before developing a view on any policy changes in this area.

Question 4. If the FCC decides to again require broadcasters to report equal employment opportunity information, what will this information be used for?

Answer. Workforce data would only be used for the purposes permitted under our rules: "analyzing industry trends and making reports to Congress."

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Question 1. Last month, an FCC spokesperson said the "FCC is actively studying the potential impacts of artificial intelligence, in particular the opportunities for advanced communications networks like spectrum sharing and wireline network management, as well as its potential as a tool and a challenge for consumers."

Question 1a. Can you provide an update on the FCC's work related to AI?

Answer. As with any new technology, I believe that the FCC should consider the impact of AI on matters within its statutory mandate, while being mindful of the limits of its expertise and authority. Spectrum utilization and administration provides a key example of an FCC matter where researchers believe AI/ML techniques could have an impact. The FCC's Technological Advisory Council, which provides technical advice to the FCC, has begun to explore these topics in its working groups.

Question 1b. What should Congress be considering about AI with respect to communications networks and spectrum sharing?

Answer. I applaud your leadership on addressing the novel challenges posed by AI. I believe that Congress should consider how AI can enhance and compromise our network security. I also believe Congress should consider how AI can improve spectrum use in a way that enhances U.S. leadership in wireless, the maturity of such technologies, and the risks inherent in their widespread deployment. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Question 2. The Chinese Communist Party poses a direct threat to American interests, particularly in the tech industry. This has been recognized by both Republicans and Democrats, including some of you, who have been vocal about ByteDance and TikTok, the Chinese drone company DJI, submarine cables connecting the U.S. and China, and the need to rip and replace Huawei equipment from our networks.

Question 2a. What role does the FCC play in combatting Chinese tech threats?

Answer. The FCC plays an important role in protecting the United States from threats, including those from Chinese technology. As I have repeatedly said, network security is national security. I appreciate the opportunity to highlight a few of the important actions the Commission has taken recently:

- I have long been concerned about the threat of Chinese technology in our networks. In 2019, I organized a stakeholder workshop on this issue called "Find It, Fix It, Fund It." This ultimately cumulated in the FCC designating Huawei Technologies Company and ZTE Corporation as threats to the Integrity of Our Communications Networks and the Communications Supply Chain. This meant Universal Service Fund support could not be used for Huawei or ZTE equipment and services.
- With Congress' help, we were able to go further. After Congress passed the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act (Secure Networks Act), the Commission created the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program (also called the Rip and Replace Program), which reimburses eligible providers to remove, replace, and destroy of Huawei and ZTE equipment and services.
- The Secure Networks Act also directed the Commission to publish a List of Covered Communications Equipment and Services (Covered List) of untrusted equipment; the list currently includes equipment and services from 10 companies, nine from China and one from Russia. To ensure that insecure equipment from these companies is not authorized for sale in the United States, the Commission will no longer review or approve any authorization application that includes any equipment on the Covered List.
- On a unanimous, bipartisan basis, the Commission has voted to revoke or reject Section 214 international authorizations from four Chinese carriers to protect our networks and consumers.

Question 2b. We recently learned of a relationship between autonomous vehicle car Waymo and Chinese company Geely, which has launched satellites using CCP resources. What risks could Chinese access to satellites pose to U.S. consumers and how can Congress and the FCC work together to mitigate these threats?

Answer. I have been an outspoken advocate for mitigating the risks posed by insecure equipment in our terrestrial networks. These risks include unauthorized surveillance and data collection, the sharing of sensitive data with our foreign adversaries, and the potential disruption of mission-critical communications. I believe similar concerns apply to insecure satellite networks that serve the United States. Whether the access network operates in orbit or right here on Earth, we must work together to ensure that Americans' communications are safeguarded and secure. I would be eager to working with you on this important issue.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO TO GEOFFREY STARKS

Rural Broadband Protection Act

Ensuring that USF high-cost programs are being well managed is a goal all of us share. As we await a potential Phase II auction of RDO, there were clearly ways to improve upon Phase I—to speed up the process and to make sure smaller ISPs are better able to participate. I have a bill—the Rural Broadband Protection Act with Senator Klobuchar that seeks to improve future phases of high-cost programs by requiring a more thorough vetting and verification process for ISPs. I know I have discussed my legislation with a few of you.

Question 1. Commissioner Starks, do you support the kinds of improvements in my bill?

Answer. Yes, and thank you for your leadership on this important issue, along with Senator Klobuchar. Given my background at the Department of Justice and in the Enforcement Bureau, I have been vocal in calling for the Commission to enforce our rules to ensure that providers that pledge to provide broadband service to a community as part of the FCC's Universal Service Fund uphold their promises. I have been immensely frustrated at the carriers that have defaulted. I support your legislation's goal of creating a vetting process for applicants that wish to participate in the FCC's broadband deployment programs to ensure that they will be able to uphold their commitments and serve the communities that are counting on them. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Tech Neutrality

A growing number of West Virginians rely on non-fiber broadband coverage—like Starlink. Last year, the FCC abruptly reversed its decision to authorize nearly $900 million to Starlink to provide high-speed broadband to hundreds of thousands of rural homes and businesses across 35 states.

Question 2. How do you feel about the importance of being technology neutral when it comes to connecting people?

Answer. Technology neutrality is important to connecting people across our country, and I support technology-neutral policies across FCC proceedings.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO GEOFFREY STARKS

To All Commissioners:

Question 1. Alaska's dedicated high cost program, the Alaska Plan, has been a massive success that recognizes the unique challenges associated with broadband connectivity in Alaska. As you all are aware, the FCC is currently working on an extension of the Alaska Plan. The certainty of the Plan has been critical to build-out in Alaska and will continue to be, especially with the significant investments in broadband infrastructure taking place.

Question 1a. Will you commit to continue to recognize Alaska's unique needs and support an extension of the Alaska Plan?

Answer. Yes, I commit to continuing our work to tailor Commission programs in light of Alaska's unique needs. Earlier this month, I had the privilege of visiting Alaska to experience first-hand some of the unique challenges that residents and providers face. Alaska is vast, remote, and vitally important. Programs like the Alaska Plan and the Rural Health Care program have made a major difference in serving rural and very remote communities, including Tribal lands. We must continue to account for the obstacles that remain in the path of universal service in Alaska.

Question 1b. Do you agree that the Commission should work expeditiously on the extension in order to provide certainty to service in our state as more broadband deployments are being planned?

Answer. I agree that regulatory certainty is critical and that the FCC should work expeditiously on the extension matter.

Question 2. It is assumed that if all of you are confirmed, a 3–2 Commission will re-implement the heavy handed "Net Neutrality" regulations under Title II of the Communications Act. It has been 5 years since the "Net Neutrality" regulation roll-back, and I think we can agree that the apocalyptic predictions have not played out.

Question 2a. If "Net Neutrality" rules are put into place again, is it good for stakeholders and consumers to experience this sort of regulatory whiplash?

Answer. I agree that certainty is important, and a long-term solution would benefit stakeholders and consumers. I support and would prefer legislative action on net neutrality and would welcome the opportunity to work with you on this important issue.

Question 2b. Shouldn't the FCC defer to Congress to settle this issue?

Answer. I support and would prefer legislative action to address this issue. In the absence of legislative action, however, I believe the Commission has authority to act.

To All Nominees:

Question 3. We are in the process of distributing a historic amount of funding for broadband deployment across the country—$65 billion alone from IIJA. Alaska is eager to make the most of this opportunity, and we have more work to do than

most. But one thing I continue to be very conscious of, is the letting this opportunity to go to waste. I've talked to the Chairwoman about this concern. She mentioned a number of steps to take, including making clear, loudly, from the beginning, the penalties for waste, fraud, and abuse; also extensive vetting on the front end to ensure that applicants can deliver the service and speeds they claim.

Question 3a. Do you think the various agencies tasked with distributing this money have established adequate safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse?

Answer. I believe that waste, fraud, and abuse is wrong and unfair to taxpayers, and that it undermines the ability of Federal programs to help the Americans they are intended to serve. I also believe that agencies should continuously evaluate their programs to safeguard against waste, fraud, and abuse.

Question 3b. What more can be done in terms of agency coordination?

Answer. Section 60105 of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act required the FCC to "establish an online mapping tool to provide a locations overview of the overall geographic footprint of each broadband infrastructure deployment project funded by the Federal Government." The FCC released the Broadband Funding Map on May 15, 2023. I believe greater use of the Broadband Funding Map will significantly enhance coordination between agencies. The maps will be updated no less than twice a year, which will ensure that agencies are using the most up-to-date data. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you on these matters.

Question 3c. What role can the IG play in this effort?

Answer. I think the Inspector General can play a very important role investigating program participants and ensuring compliance with all of our program requirements.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BRIAN SCHATZ TO ANNA GOMEZ

Question 1. Do you commit to ensuring universal fixed broadband deployment to all Tribal homes and businesses?

Answer. Yes. I want every home and business to have access regardless of where they are, including on Tribal lands.

Question 2. Do you commit to ensuring universal mobile broadband deployment, including to all Tribal homes and businesses and along Tribal roads?

Answer. Yes. I want every home and business to have access regardless of where they are, including on Tribal lands.

Question 3. Do you commit to adopting additional Tribal priority access windows, just like in the 2.5 GHz auction, where it is feasible and in the public interest to do so?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. When the United States auctions spectrum located over the lands of an Indian Tribe it does not share any portion of the proceeds with the Tribe, which is a sovereign government. Should the United States allocate a portion of these revenues to a Tribe or dedicate a portion to advancing universal and affordable communications services on the Tribal lands?

Answer. By law, revenues raised from spectrum auctions must be deposited with the U.S. Treasury. However, I agree that the FCC should work with Congress to consider how it can use the revenues raised from the auction of public airwaves to build the public infrastructure this country needs. If confirmed, I would be happy to work with you and the tribes to explore how revenues from FCC spectrum auctions could be used to advance universal and affordable communications services on Tribal lands.

Question 5. Do you commit to expanding access to unlicensed spectrum? What bands do you view as the most promising opportunities to expand unlicensed access?

Answer. Yes. Unlicensed spectrum has enabled amazing innovations that have made the U.S. the world leader in the gig economy, technology platforms, and other uses and services. In addition, the coronavirus pandemic put Wi-Fi at the center of nearly every aspect of our daily lives–from how we work, learn, see a doctor, or connect with family and friends. To address this growing demand and to deliver on the promise of next-generation Wi-Fi, the FCC has made 1,200 megahertz of spectrum available for new unlicensed use in the 6 GHz band. If confirmed, I will work with stakeholders to identify additional opportunities to grow unlicensed spectrum.

Question 6. Please provide your analysis of how well the FCC's new broadband maps portray the availability of broadband on Tribal lands. Should the FCC display Tribal boundaries just as it displays state boundaries? If not, why not? Should the

FCC provide the number of locations associated with individual Tribal areas, in addition to offering an aggregated rollup of the number of Tribal locations and Tribal broadband availability nationwide? Are there changes you believe the FCC needs to adopt with respect to how it displays broadband availability on Tribal lands?

Answer. I believe that having as much data as possible about Tribal locations and needs will help ensure that all Tribal homes and businesses have access to high-speed broadband. If confirmed, I would work with you and with the Commission staff to determine how best to collect and display that data.

Question 7. In 2011 the FCC committed to working with Tribal communities and ensuring connectivity by establishing the FCC Native Nations Communications Task Force. This commitment was renewed in 2018 for three years. Since 2021, the term of the Commission has been extended annually. Do you commit to making this Task Force permanent?

Answer. Yes.

Question 8. As the most populated remote place in the world, Hawaii has unique broadband needs, particularly with respect to inter-island and transpacific submarine cables. The State currently has significant plans in place to build inter-island submarine cables and to incentivize transpacific submarine cable landings. Can I have your commitment that you will not interfere with the State's plans and, to the extent it ever becomes necessary, that you will help ensure that Hawaii has the inter-island and transpacific submarine cable connectivity it needs?

Answer. As you note, Hawaii has unique broadband needs. If confirmed, I will work with you to ensure that Hawaii has the inter-island and transpacific submarine cable connectivity it needs.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH TO ANNA GOMEZ

I am concerned about the lack of coordination that took place between the FCC, NTIA, and the FAA during the initial rollout of 5G.

We averted an aviation crisis—barely—in January of last year when President Biden's Administration helped broker a deal to delay full rollout of 5G to give airlines time to retrofit their altimeters to avoid interference.

If aircraft are not retrofitted by July 1st, they might not be able to conduct lower visibility approaches and may need to divert.

What I find so frustrating is that none of this confusion and delay should have been necessary. The FCC and FAA should have better coordinated much earlier in the process. The clear lack of coordination amongst industry and government stakeholders to consider all impacts of spectrum use and facilitate desired outcomes negatively impacted aviation and broader stakeholders, including those in the telecommunications sector seeking to deploy and utilize spectrum.

There needs to be more accountability at FCC and collaboration and risk mitigation planning between the FCC, NTIA, and agencies like the FAA whose industries will be impacted by new telecommunication technologies.

Unfortunately, when we've asked the FCC about its willingness to be more forthcoming with the FAA, we've heard a reluctance to do so.

Question 1. What additional authority, if any, does FCC need to share more information and better collaborate about new communication technology, including risk mitigation planning, earlier in the process with impacted agencies such as the FAA?

Answer. I agree that the FCC should work closely with its Federal partners and with aviation and wireless stakeholders to ensure that next-generation 5G networks can safely co-exist with air safety technologies in the United States. Looking ahead, I believe that expanding spectrum opportunities for any sector will require the FCC and NTIA to work together and with other Federal agencies to navigate issues regarding governmental coordination. I am pleased to see that the FCC and NTIA have announced a Spectrum Coordination Initiative and an updated Memorandum of Understanding to improve the processes for decision making and information sharing around spectrum policy issues. I agree that we must revitalize the interagency coordination process so that it once again is able to produce results for the Nation.

Question 2. Can I have your commitment that you will use all existing authority to ensure spectrum policy addresses safety issues, to collaborate and do risk mitigation planning on new communication technology with impacted agencies like FAA?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JACKY ROSEN TO ANNA GOMEZ

Access to Affordable Broadband

Question 1. Earlier this month, I was proud to announce over $43 million I secured is coming to Nevada through my *Middle Mile Broadband Deployment Act,* which will help facilitate and improve the Internet connection of more than 21,000 locations across the state. I'm proud to have also worked closely with the FCC over the past several months to successfully push the Commission to update its National Broadband Map to be a more accurate reflection of broadband availability in Nevada—ensuring that broadband funding through the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* is allocated fairly. We saw that come to fruition on June 26th, when it was announced that Nevada would receive over $416 million in BEAD funding to support last mile connections to Nevada families to make sure they have access to high-speed internet.

Ms. Gomez, if confirmed to the FCC, how do you plan to support NTIA's implementation of the Middle Mile and BEAD programs, and will you commit to continuing to improve the FCC Broadband Map?

Answer. If confirmed, I would support providing whatever resources, data, and expertise to help NTIA maximize the Middle Mile and BEAD program funding to deploy broadband to those areas that most need it. In addition, I commit to continuing to improve the FCC Broadband Map.

Rural and Tribal Broadband

Question 2. Nevada is proud to be home to 28 tribes, bands, and colonies, and my office has heard from many of them about the importance of strong broadband connections. Nevada also has a unique landscape, which includes challenging terrain, which can present difficulties for rural and tribal communities across the state to easily access high quality, affordable broadband. Programs like the Affordable Connectivity Program or ACP, which I was proud to help write in the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law,* are critical to helping hardworking families in rural areas access affordable broadband that is too often out of financial reach.

Ms. Gomez, if confirmed how will you address some of these challenges and bring high quality and affordable broadband to Nevada's rural and tribal communities? And how will you continue to build out and improve critical programs like ACP?

Answer. Ensuring that broadband is affordable and reliable is critical to closing the digital divide. As someone who has experienced personally the impact of income instability, I know how important a program like the ACP is to a family struggling to pay the bills at the end of the month. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and others at the Commission to find ways to ensure the ACP is available to those who need it most.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. RAPHAEL WARNOCK TO ANNA GOMEZ

Affordable Internet Access. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's broadband infrastructure investments have put the United States on the cusp of closing the digital divide. Closing this gap will allow millions of Americans to access the Internet and connect with others in education, health care, and numerous other sectors. That said, broadband infrastructure is just half of the equation. Without investments in digital equity and affordability, many Americans will struggle to afford this new infrastructure and may continue to be left behind in the digital age. One of the hallmarks of Federal digital equity and affordability resources is the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a monthly Internet service discount and one-time discount for households to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet.

Question. In addition to encouraging ACP enrollment, what more can the FCC do to help address barriers to accessing devices and continued issues of Internet affordability for middle and low-income families and historically marginalized communities?

Answer. Internet affordability is critical to closing the digital divide. We cannot only address the access side of the equation, we must also address the affordability of service for families as well. As we discussed at the hearing, my family struggled financially. I have experienced fearing that loss of connection. It is vital that programs like the ACP and its support for devices are available to those that need them most. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and the Commission on this issue.

Question. What mechanisms would you add to measure the impact of the ACP on closing the digital divide and improving broadband affordability, and how would you regularly share that data with states to better inform local digital inclusion work?

Answer. Communicating with those that need programs like the ACP is important, and providing information to those at the front lines in the states is an important way to maximize the reach of programs like ACP. It also is how we can learn what is working and what needs to be improved. If confirmed, I look forward to working with your office, the Commission, and stakeholders so I can hear first-hand about how this program is making an impact, what data are most useful, and how we can continue to improve the program.

Question. Can public-private partnerships help improve broadband affordability in high-need and high-cost communities? If so, what more can the FCC do to encourage these partnerships?

Answer. Public-private partnerships can be very powerful programs to connect with communities most in need. The FCC should support public-private partnerships as much as possible, including by working with and providing technical assistance to interagency partners and states and localities that provide funding for such programs.

Question. What is your best estimate of when the ACP will come to an end if Congress does not provide additional authorization and appropriations? What would the impact be on families if the ACP program came to an end?

Answer. The Chairwoman has publicly stated the funds will run out next spring. Families in this program may be faced with the impossible choices of paying for broadband service and affording gas or groceries or medicine. This is especially true of the millions of seniors in the program who rely on a fixed income. No one should have to choose between affording Internet service and feeding their family. Moreover, this program is ensuring millions of people can get online and participate fully in the digital economy–whether that is remote work, applying for jobs, online upskilling, or starting a business. Allowing the ACP to end could resign them–and their economic futures–to the wrong side of the digital divide.

Question. Following the implementation of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, millions of Americans, particularly in high-cost areas, will have Internet service and access for the first time. What should the FCC do to ensure this new service remains affordable after the conclusion of the BEAD program, especially in high-cost areas?

Answer. Deploying infrastructure to every American will be of no use if it is unaffordable. That is why programs like the ACP are so critical so that this once-in-a-generation broadband funding opportunity does not go to waste. We must do everything we can to continue this critical program.

Supporting Local Media.

Question. What tools can Congress give the FCC to strengthen localism and media diversity?

Answer. The number of minority-owned and women-owned broadcast stations is staggeringly low. One of the most effective ways to increase the number of women-owned and minority-owned broadcast stations was when Congress created the Minority Tax Certificate Program.

During the program's lifecycle, there were marked gains in the diversity of broadcast ownership. If confirmed, I would look forward to working with you to reinstate that program.

Universal Service Fund.

Question. Do you believe the FCC has authority to act on modifying the Universal Service Fund?

Answer. The Commission has some authority to act under the Communications Act, but certain proposed actions may require legislative changes.

Question. What do you believe needs to be done to reform the Universal Service Fund?

Answer. The Universal Service Fund provides the necessary connections for rural communities, telehealth providers, schools and libraries, and low income individuals. These connections allow for full participation in digital life. We must ensure that the USF is set up for success so that all of us can experience the benefits of the next-century economy. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you, the Commission, and other stakeholders on how best we can achieve our long-term USF goals.

Question. What can Congress do to support reforming the Universal Service Fund in a positive way?

Answer. The Universal Service Fund serves a critical function to connect rural and high cost areas, telehealth providers, and schools and libraries, and to make those connections affordable. Reforming the Universal Service Fund may require legislative action, and if confirmed, I would commit to working with you to help identify any such necessary actions.

Buy America Compliance for Broadband Programs. On February 9, 2023, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a draft rule entitled "Guidance for Grants and Agreements," which detailed statutory authority for the Made in America Office in OMB to maximize and enforce compliance with Made in America laws.[1] This draft rule lays out guidance for defining construction versus manufactured materials and provides implementation guidance to Federal agencies on the application of Buy America preference to Federal financial assistance programs for infrastructure and a transparent process to waive such a preference when necessary.7 The application of a final rule on this matter will be critical in the rollout of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which will provide $42.45 billion in funding to states for planning, deployment, and adoption of high-speed Internet access.[2] The definitions of broadband infrastructure and its components such as fiber optic cable and optical glass under a final rule, and thus their applicability to Build America, Buy America requirements, will impact how many producers will be able to supply the infrastructure needed to implement the BEAD program. Overall, it is important that states, municipalities, and their contractors have access to the necessary infrastructure to implement BEAD and that this infrastructure is affordable and able to be delivered on an efficient timeline in order to maximize the efficacy of the BEAD program.

Question. Do you believe it is important to have multiple Build America, Buy America compliant producers of optical glass to ensure the efficient distribution of fiber under the BEAD program?

Answer. Yes.

Spectrum Use. In March 2023, the FCC's authority to auction spectrum lapsed for the first time in three decades.[3] It is crucial that spectrum be allocated fairly, while protecting the American security interests that utilize spectrum bands.

Question. How can the FCC more effectively work with other Federal agencies responsible for regulating spectrum use?

Answer. The FCC should work with the NTIA to establish an open, trust-, and science-based coordination process.

Question. How can the FCC effectively allocate both licensed and unlicensed spectrum resources to drive innovation?

Answer. The FCC can never rest when it comes to allocating new spectrum for licensed and unlicensed uses. Specifically, the Commission needs to continually have a strategy for studying specific bands that can be allocated for new licensed and unlicensed uses. In addition, the Commission should encourage innovative new uses by permitting parties to participate in studies and testbeds to demonstrate new technologies.

Question. What steps can the FCC take to work with those who won licenses for the 2.5 GHz spectrum band, while still working with congressional and administration leaders to extend the Commission's auction authority?

Answer. The FCC should work with the General Counsel to understand what actions the Commission can take pursuant to its statutory authority with regard to the 2.5 GHz band licensees, including the General Counsel's interpretation of the Commission's authority under Section 309(a) notwithstanding the expiration of the Commission's auction authority.

Question. What steps can the FCC take to work with Congress and other Federal agencies to resolve concerns about L-band spectrum terrestrial use?

Answer. The most important thing the FCC can do with regard to addressing any concerns about spectrum use is to communicate with all stakeholders and with Congress in an open and transparent manner.

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[1] *https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/09/2023–02617/guidance-for-grants-and-agreements*

[2] *https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program-0*

[3] *https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairwoman-rosenworcel-expiration-spectrum-auction-authority*

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO ANNA GOMEZ

Question 1. Should the Standard General Hearing-TEGNA Designation Order have been voted on by the full Commission, rather than issued under the Media Bureau's delegated authority? Yes or no.

Answer. As a general matter, I believe that the agency functions best when Commissioners have the opportunity to vote on more rather than fewer matters. However, having not been at the Commission during the agency's review of this transaction, I cannot comment on this specific proceeding.

Question 2. Local broadcasters have been in a dogfight with big tech behemoths and AM stations are facing the existential threat of being de-platformed by automakers. I fear the FCC could make things even worse by reimposing outdated ownership burdens on local stations—a threat that may loom large over the media's coverage of the 2024 election and distort what gets reported and when. My view is simple: The FCC should not be in the business of leveraging its power over journalists to influence elections. To protect the integrity of the media's coverage of the election, will you commit to oppose any action to reimpose broadcast ownership restrictions in the year leading up to the 2024 election?

Answer. The independent media plays a critical role in our democracy. Local broadcasters provide much needed and greatly trusted information to their communities. As you know, the Chairwoman sets the agenda for the Commission. I will commit to fully reviewing any record and will seek to hear from all stakeholders in the media landscape, including broadcasters, before rendering any decisions on rulemakings put before me and my fellow Commissioners. The last major decision on media ownership was by the Supreme Court, and if confirmed, I would take no action at odds with that decision.

Question 3. You stated in my office that you were concerned about harms that could result from reclassifying broadband Internet access service as a public utility. What are examples of those harms?

Answer. Thank you for taking the time to meet with me in your office. During our conversation, I acknowledged that the FCC should consider the possibility of unintended harms from rules generally. I did not have any particular harms in mind with respect to reclassifying broadband Internet access service as a telecommunications service.

Question 4. You have stated that you oppose broadband rate regulation. I would like to better understand what you mean by this. Clarity is especially important since there are many ways the FCC could attempt to regulate rates beyond setting broadband rates on an *ex ante* basis. Please define what you meant by broadband rate regulation when you made your previous statements opposing broadband rate regulation.

Answer. Broadband rate regulation means regulatory efforts to control broadband prices a company can charge to consumers. I believe that effective competition can be more efficient at lowering the rates that service providers charge their customers than regulation.

Question 5. Yes or no: Do you consider *ex post* review of providers' broadband prices a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support giving such power to the FCC.

Answer. As a general matter, I believe that effective competition can be more efficient at lowering the rates that service providers charge their customers than regulation. Whether ex post review of prices is a form of rate regulation or not would ultimately depend on the scope of the review and the specifics of any regulatory action–if any–taken pursuant to such review.

Question 6. Yes or no: Would FCC declaring a broadband provider's rate unlawful on the grounds that it is not "just" or "reasonable" constitute a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support giving such power to the FCC.

Answer. As a general matter, I believe that effective competition can be more efficient at lowering the rates that service providers charge their customers than regulation. Whether the FCC declaring a broadband provider's rate unlawful on the grounds that it is not "just" or "reasonable" constitutes a form of rate regulation ultimately would depend on a number of case-specific factors.

Question 7. Yes or no: Is the 2015 net neutrality order's mandate that broadband service providers provide free terminating access to edge providers a form of rate regulation?

Answer. The FCC's 2015 Open Internet Order expressly eschewed the use of prescriptive, industry-wide rate regulation. As a general matter, I believe that effective

competition can be more efficient at lowering the rates that service providers charge their customers than regulation.

Question 8. Yes or no: If the FCC were to prohibit "zero-rating" by broadband providers, would that be a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support such a prohibition.

Answer. As a general matter, I believe that effective competition can be more efficient at lowering the rates that service providers charge their customers than regulation. Whether a prohibition against "zero-rating" would constitute a form of rate regulation ultimately would depend on a number of case-specific factors.

Question 9. Yes or no: If the FCC were to prohibit usage-based pricing, would that be a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support such a prohibition.

Answer. As a general matter, I believe that effective competition can be more efficient at lowering the rates that service providers charge their customers than regulation. Whether a prohibition against usage-based pricing would constitute a form of rate regulation ultimately would depend on a number of case-specific factors.

Question 10. Yes or no: If the FCC were to require broadband providers to provide "wholesale" unbundled access to their networks, would that be a form of rate regulation?

Answer. To the extent the Commission were to prescribe how the service provider calculates the wholesale rate, then yes.

Question 11. Yes or no: Do you support requiring broadband providers to provide wholesale unbundled access to their competitors?

Answer. As a general matter, I believe it is important to pursue regulatory frameworks that can continue to facilitate the tremendous investment and innovation on the Internet.

Question 12. In 2020 California implemented a new rule precluding companies participating in the state's Lifeline program from charging low-income customers a co-pay for certain subsidized plans. Yes or no: Do you consider the prohibition on a co-pay in this context to be a form of rate regulation?

Answer. No.

Question 13. Yes or no: If the FCC were to require broadband providers to offer a specific cost tier, such as a low-income offering, would that be a form of rate regulation? Please also indicate if you would support such a requirement, and if so, how do you determine what a "low-income" price is without setting a rate?

Answer. As a general matter, I believe that effective competition can be more efficient at lowering the rates that service providers charge their customers than regulation. Whether requiring providers to offer a low-income tier would constitute a form of rate regulation ultimately would depend on case-specific factors.

Question 14. Are you concerned that any harms could result from reclassification of broadband Internet access service under Title II? If so, what are those harms?

Answer. I believe the FCC should consider the possibility of unintended harms from rules generally. I do not have any particular harms in mind with respect to reclassifying broadband Internet access service as a telecommunications service.

Question 15. FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel wants the FCC to investigate the imposition of data caps on broadband service plans. As you know, broadband service is currently classified as an information service not subject to Title II regulation under the Communications Act. Pursuant to what authority can the FCC investigate broadband data caps?

Answer. Since I am not currently at the Commission, I have not seen the Notice of Inquiry circulated by the Chairwoman. However, I do know based on public reporting of the NOI that it seeks to ask questions regarding the FCC's authority with respect to data caps.

Question 16. If the FCC determines that it wants to regulate broadband data caps, under which statutory provision could the FCC impose such regulations?

Answer. Since I am not currently at the Commission, I have not seen the Notice of Inquiry circulated by the Chairwoman. However, I do know based on public reporting of the NOI that it seeks to ask questions regarding the FCC's authority with respect to data caps.

Question 17. In the press release announcing that FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel would ask the Commission to investigate broadband data caps, it stated that the FCC would evaluate "whether the Commission should consider taking action to ensure that data caps do not cause harm to competition or consumers' ability to access broadband Internet services." Under the FCC's current statutory authority and the

classification of broadband services as information services, what actions could the FCC take with respect to broadband data caps?

Answer. Because I am not at the Commission, I cannot speak to the details of what the FCC may or may not do with regards to this particular matter and would not want to prejudge an issue that may be before me if confirmed.

Question 18. Last year, the FCC abruptly reversed its decision to authorize nearly $900 million to Starlink to provide high-speed broadband to hundreds of thousands of rural homes and businesses across 35 states. This decision comes at a high cost to taxpayers. It's been estimated that funding high-speed fiber broadband to the areas Starlink was previously awarded will cost $2 billion more than Starlink could have provided with low-earth orbit satellite service. And this estimate doesn't even account for inflation since 2020. Do you support this decision by Chairwoman Rosenworcel?

Answer. Not being at the Commission during the time of this decision, I am unable to speak to the specific facts involved in this issue. I believe we need more connectivity in more places and that in doing so we must have an "all of the above" approach to connect all households.

Question 19. Do you think a bias against wireless technologies violates the Commission's binding responsibility to promote technological neutrality in its administration of the Universal Service Fund (USF)?

Answer. I believe the Commission should use an "all of the above" strategy when it comes to connecting all households.

Question 20. If confirmed, will you commit to advocating for technology neutral policies across FCC proceedings?

Answer. I believe the Commission should adopt technology neutral policies when doing so is technically feasible and best serves consumers.

Question 21. The previous FCC led by former Chairman Pai provided critical relief from state and local obstacles that increased costs and delayed deployment of "5G small cells." Eliminating such burdensome regulations has been critical for American leadership in 5G; in the aftermath of the previous FCC's reforms, the number of cell sites in the U.S. increased by 35 percent between 2016 and 2021, after increasing only 1 percent between 2013 and 2016. What are ways the agency can expand upon the previous FCC's permitting reforms?

Answer. Deploying next generation wireless is critical to American competition and innovation. Aligning permitting timelines, particularly on Federal property, would streamline deployment.

Question 22. Will you commit to preserving the previous FCC's permitting reforms and expanding upon them during your tenure?

Answer. The Chairwoman sets the agenda but I would be open to hearing from all stakeholders on ways we can deploy wireless technologies in faster, smarter, or more efficient ways.

Question 23. In our meeting, you committed that you would not support any effort to reverse the Restoring Internet Freedom Order without a fresh record. Do you still hold by this commitment?

Answer. I believe the Commission should seek comment before taking any action on such a proceeding.

Question 24. Does the Federal government control too much spectrum?

Answer. Wireless spectrum is a vital and limited national resource that contributes to our economic growth and a variety of critical Federal missions. I believe that more transparency about how spectrum is being used by stakeholders, including the Federal government, would improve the ability of the FCC and NTIA to assess the spectrum landscape more accurately. Given this is a critical national resource, it is important that the FCC and NTIA manage and make policy decisions with the most accurate data possible.

Question 25. Last August, the FCC and NTIA signed a new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on radiofrequency coordination. What changes, if any, would you make to improve the MOU?

Answer. The new Memorandum of Understanding between the FCC and the NTIA builds on the fundamental strengths of the FCC–NTIA relationship and improves the processes for decision making and information sharing around spectrum policy decisions. To further strengthen this document, I would consider outlining a clearer process for escalating issues where there continues to be policy or technical disagreement between the agencies after coordination.

Question 26. You are currently leading preparation at the State Department for the International Telecommunication Union World Radio Communication Conference (WRC–23). If confirmed, are you concerned that leaving this position vacant

just months in advance of WRC–23 will undermine the United States' ability to advance international spectrum interests?

Answer. The State Department is well aware of the importance of WRC–23 for U.S. spectrum and will ensure continuity of leadership in preparing for and participating in the conference.

Question 27. In your hearing and in conversation with my staff, you stated that the State Department was preparing a contingency plan regarding WRC–23 preparation if you are confirmed. What does that plan entail? Please be specific?

Answer. The State Department is consulting internally to consider all potential options should the Senate confirm me to serve at the FCC. There is a very strong, interagency team I have been working alongside that is well-informed about the issues and the process leading to WRC–23, which will help the Department ensure a continuity of leadership.

Question 28. You have tweeted or re-tweeted posts regarding the proliferation of "disinformation." In February 2020, for example, you *tweeted* about a conference panelist's description of "DARPA programs to counter disinformation campaigns." You wrote "Please hurry." Then, in the lead-up to the 2020 election, you retweeted a *post* that referred to "Trump's targeted mass disinformation campaign" against "Black voters in 2016." Do you believe the FCC should act to prevent the spread of online disinformation?

Answer. I support the First Amendment. Social media is a tool many use for communicating, sharing information, and finding community. As individuals, we must be mindful about how we can best use this tool to inform and educate ourselves and others. The First Amendment protects each of us to share ideas and communicate with others and that right must be protected.

Question 29. In *endorsing* your nomination, the Open Technology Institute wrote that you understand "the proliferation of online disinformation and hate speech." Do you believe the FCC has a role in regulating online disinformation and hate speech?

Answer. While social media can be a great tool to engage and learn with others, it can also be a frustrating and difficult place. I support the First Amendment and believe in ensuring that each of us can exercise that right.

Question 30. What is your definition of misinformation?

Answer. Misinformation is false or inaccurate information.

Question 31. What is your definition of hate speech?

Answer. Hate speech is speech that expresses hate or encourages violence against a group or an individual based on inherent or immutable characteristics. Hate speech is nevertheless speech protected by the First Amendment.

Question 32. During your confirmation hearing, Sen. Budd asked you how this committee can have confidence in your ability to steward taxpayer dollars given your role in the wasteful Broadband Technology Opportunities Program (BTOP). In response, you said: "I am certainly hopeful that I can bring my experience to bear and the lessons learned from prior programs." What specific lessons did you learn from administering the BTOP program?

Answer. There are several lessons to be learned from the BTOP program. The first is the importance of hearing from all stakeholders, including developing partnerships with localities. Second is the importance of technical assistance to, and strong oversight of, grantees. And third is the appreciation for using data to drive policy decisions and measure impact.

Question 33. If you could go back in time, what are specific things you would have changed about the BTOP program to prevent inefficient, wasteful spending and subsidized overbuilding?

Answer. If I could go back in time, I would have the broadband map that Congress subsequently required in the Broadband Data Act. If we had the current FCC map then, we would have had a much better ability to directly target funding where there was greatest need.

Question 34. During the confirmation hearing, in response to questions from Sen. Markey about expanding E-Rate, you said that "E-rate has done much good in connecting schools and libraries and if confirmed [you] would look forward to delving into the program and how to best benefit students." Do you think the Commission has the legal authority to subsidize E-Rate services outside schools, such as, in students' homes? If so, please identify the specific provision of the Communications Act that you believe gives the FCC such authority.

https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairwoman-rosenworcel-announces-learn-without-limits-initiative

Answer. For more than two decades, the E-rate program has been an essential source of funding to connect the Nation's schools and libraries to the internet. I ap-

preciate that some stakeholders have interpreted the statute as allowing the Commission to make changes to the E-rate program in response to emergencies or to subsidize home classroom hotspots and other off-campus connectivity solutions. In particular, some stakeholders have noted that the Commission previously has made E-Rate support available for off-campus services when such support serves an educational purpose. For example, the FCC has funded the use of wireless telecommunications services by school bus drivers while driving students to and from school.

The FCC also has funded Internet a"cess'for the residential areas of schools that serve unique populations, including schools on Tribal lands and schools designed to serve students with medical needs, because such services are used primarily for educational purposes. Such stakeholders note that Section 254 of the Communications Act only requires that telecommunications services supported by the E-Rate program serve "educational purposes." The FCC has defined "educational purposes" as "activities that are integral, immediate, and proximate to the education of students." Moreover, under Section 254, the FCC has the authority to "designate additional services" for support from the E-Rate program. If confirmed, I would review the relevant statutes and assess these potential sources of authority.

Question 35. If Wi-Fi on school buses became eligible for E-Rate, how would you track the effectiveness on the subsidy, in terms of specific goals and metrics?

Answer. I would review its effectiveness based on how well such E-rate support for Wi-Fi on school busses contribute to the overall goals for the E-rate program: (1) ensuring affordable access to high-speed broadband sufficient to support digital learning in schools; (2) maximizing the cost-effectiveness of spending for E-rate supported purchases; and (3) making the E-rate application process and other E-rate processes fast, simple, and efficient.

Question 36. At a recent subcommittee hearing on May 11, 2023, several Democrat witnesses advocated assessing USF taxes on broadband service. Are you concerned that imposing a USF tax on broadband service would make broadband more expensive, particularly for lower-and middle-income consumers?

Answer. Because the current USF funding mechanism relies on telecommunications companies' interstate and international revenue from voice telephony services, as the subscription to landline telephony continues to decline, the contribution factor–percentage of end user revenue that will be contributed to the Fund–has jumped from 7 percent to 30 percent over the last two decades.

Since the USF fee is generally assessed equally on all consumers regardless of income, the burden of an increased contribution fee has fallen disproportionately on low-income households which are more price sensitive yet pay a greater portion of their income toward telecommunications services than high-income households. I am committed to working with the Chairwoman, Congress, and stakeholders in ensuring that lower-and middle-income consumers are not harmed should the Commission take action on contribution reform.

Question 37. Do you have any reservations about taxing the very service the subsidies are meant to promote? Please explain.

Answer. As a redistributive subsidy mechanism, the USF program has traditionally relied on fees on consumers' landline and wireless phone bills to fund telephony connectivity to specific segments of America: high cost areas, low-income consumers, schools and libraries, and rural health care providers. As the Commission considers reforming the USF contribution mechanism, it should consider how any assessments on consumers' bills will affect the affordability of the assessed services.

Question 38. Eligibility criteria for the ACP are estimated to sweep in 40 percent of U.S. households, over 70 percent of whom were already broadband subscribers prior to the ACP. In May, the largest recipient of both Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) and ACP funds stated, "[t]he vast majority of the [ACP] customers we have were already existing customers who are now benefiting from that benefit." Does this statement raise any concerns for you regarding the efficiency of the subsidy? If so, please describe your concerns.

Answer. Affordable broadband service is critical to closing the digital divide. We must ensure that consumers have the ability to get and stay online, 24/7. The Affordable Connectivity Program is a program that does more than simply increase the number of broadband subscribers, it is making broadband services affordable to millions of consumers so they can avoid making the difficult choice between putting food on the table or staying connected to broadband. As someone who has experienced income instability, I understand the importance of a program like the ACP in ensuring no one is disconnected or left offline.

Question 39. Do you believe ACP subsidies are effectively targeting households that would otherwise not subscribe to broadband?

Answer. I believe eligibility criteria for the ACP, as set by Congress, targets households who otherwise would not be able to adopt, afford, or maintain their broadband Internet access service.

Question 40. Do you believe the FCC has developed effective processes to identify low-income households that do not already subscribe to broadband service?

Answer. Measuring uptake and adoption rates of Internet usage can be a complex endeavor as many low income households may have Internet service for a time but then may lose it during periods of economic hardship. This is why ensuring broadband affordability is so critical so that households can get and stay online. If confirmed, I look forward to working with the Commission, your office, and others to identify additional ways to understand how we can most effectively reach these consumers.

Question 41. Do you believe the FCC has developed sufficient goals and metrics to track the ACP's effectiveness and progress over time?

Answer. Although the FCC has developed good goals and metrics for ACP, every program has room for improvement. If confirmed, I would work with all stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

Question 42. GAO has criticized the FCC for its failure to develop specific goals and metrics to track ACP's effectiveness and progress over time. Do you agree with these concerns?

Answer. Although the FCC has developed good goals and metrics for ACP, every program has room for improvement. If confirmed, I would work with all stakeholders to ensure the effectiveness of the program.

Question 43. In 2016, the Universal Service Administrative Company contracted Grant Thornton Public Sector LLC to conduct an independent program evaluation of Lifeline. Have you read this report?

Answer. I have not, but if confirmed I will review it.

Question 44. Do you agree with the recommendations in the Grant Thornton report?

Answer. I have not reviewed the report, but if confirmed I will do so.

Question 45. Do you think the recommendations in the report should have been implemented in setting up the ACP program?

Answer. I have not reviewed the report, but if confirmed I will do so.

Question 46. Do you believe that the FCC has adequately implemented the Grant Thornton report's recommendations in setting up the ACP?

Answer. I have not reviewed the report, but if confirmed I will do so.

Question 47. I understand that when the ACP program was being designed, FCC Commissioners Carr and Simington pushed to include the IG's recommendation to require ACP applicants to include the last four digits of their social security number to help the FCC identify fraud more quickly. Would you support this recommendation?

Answer. The ACP, as directed by law, allows for multiple forms of identification, including the last four digits of a social security number. I would support continuing to allow for multiple forms of ID to better assist accurately identifying qualifying individuals.

Question 48. If you become Chairwoman, will you commit to maintaining former Chairman Pai's policy on publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote?

Answer. Yes.

Question 49. Irrespective of whether you become Chairwoman, will you commit to vocally supporting maintaining Chairman Pai's policy on publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote?

Answer, Yes.

Question 50. If you become Chairwoman, will you commit to making non-meeting items (referred to as "circulates") public at the same time Commissioners are considering them?

Answer. If I were to become Chairwoman, I would work with my colleagues and the Office of General Counsel to determine whether it would be appropriate to release circulates to the public at the same time they are being considered by Commissioners.

Question 51. Irrespective of whether you become Chairwoman, will you commit to vocally supporting making circulates public at the same time Commissioners are considering them?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues and the Office of General Counsel to determine whether it would be appropriate to release circulates to the public at the same time they are being considered by Commissioners.

Question 52. If you become Chairwoman, will you commit to allowing any two Commissioners to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote?

Answer. If I were to become Chairwoman, I would work with my colleagues to determine whether to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote.

Question 53. Irrespective of whether you become Chairwoman, will you commit to vocally supporting allowing any two Commissioners to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work with my colleagues to determine whether to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote.

Question 54. If you become Chairwoman, will you commit that you will not block a large transaction without a Commission vote?

Answer. I believe Commissioners should vote on more items, not fewer.

Question 55. Irrespective of whether you become Chairwoman, will you commit to vocally opposing the Chairman/Chairwoman if they block a large transaction without a Commission vote?

Answer. I believe Commissioners should vote on more items, not fewer.

RESPONSE TO SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO ANNA GOMEZ

Question 1. What role, if any, does the FCC have with respect to online "misinformation" or "disinformation"?

Answer. I am unaware that the FCC has any role with respect to online content.

Question 2. You said in your answer that you are a supporter of the First Amendment and that it protects each of us. Does that mean that when FCC exercises its authority over broadcast and cable operators that have an online presence, you agree that the FCC has no role in considering "misinformation" or "disinformation" in reviewing their licensing applications or pursuing enforcement actions?

Answer. I believe the FCC is prohibited by law from engaging in censorship or infringing on First Amendment rights of broadcasters and cable operators, including when reviewing license applications or in enforcement proceedings based on their online presence. That said, if confirmed, I would carefully review the facts of any specific matter keeping First Amendment principles in mind.

Question 3. Would you consider whether a broadcaster has engaged in "misinformation" or "disinformation" in reviewing their licensing applications or pursuing enforcement actions?

Answer. I believe the FCC is prohibited by law from engaging in censorship or infringing on First Amendment rights of broadcasters and cable operators, including when reviewing license applications or in enforcement proceedings. That said, if confirmed, I would carefully review the facts of any specific matter keeping First Amendment principles in mind.

Question 4. To the extent FCC has authority over broadband providers, do you agree that the FCC should not consider online spread of "misinformation" or "disinformation" in exercising such authority?

Answer. It's unclear in what context such an issue would arise, but if it did, I believe the FCC is prohibited by law from engaging in censorship or infringing on First Amendment rights of any party, including broadband providers, and thus, if confirmed, I would carefully review the facts of any specific matter keeping First Amendment principles in mind.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN THUNE TO ANNA GOMEZ

Question 1. During the hearing, I asked you if you believe the FCC should come to Congress for more direction before attempting any iteration of net neutrality rules and you answered "No." However, you could not provide a single harm that has happened since the FCC's 2017 Restoring Internet Freedom Order. I'd like to ask again, since the FCC's 2017 order to repeal the heavy-handed Obama-era Title II regulations, what sort of activities have ISPs engaged in that the FCC would need Title II authority? What specific harms have you seen?

Answer. The coronavirus pandemic demonstrated that access to broadband is no longer just nice-to-have, it is a necessity for work, education, healthcare, and for full

participation in society. Title II classification is important for protecting our fundamental values of universal service and consumer protection when accessing broadband networks. Without it, the FCC would lack a mechanism for protecting the fundamental values of our most critical communications systems today.

Do you support Federal legislation on net neutrality, or do you believe it is preferable for the rules to be determined by the party in control of the FCC? If you support Federal legislation, do you support the pre-emption of states to ensure consumers are provided a consistent set or protections when using the Internet?

Answer. I welcome Congressional action on net neutrality. While several states have set up their own rules, including California, Montana, and others, I believe a Federal response is what is needed.

Question 2. The previous FCC led by former Chairman Pai provided critical relief from state and local obstacles that increased costs and delayed deployment of "5G small cells."

Will you commit to preserving the previous FCC's reforms and expanding upon them during your tenure?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working with state and local partners to support the expeditious deployment of 5G and avoid unnecessary delays in state and local approval processes.

Question 3. "Yes" or "no," do you think the FCC should regulate the rates charged for broadband services? If so, what would your proposal for broadband rate regulation look like?

Answer. No.

Question 4. The Universal Service Fund at the FCC, particularly the High Cost Program, has had a significant impact on states like South Dakota that have large rural areas. Do you believe it is important to provide rural broadband providers, particularly rate of return carriers, regulatory certainty in the USF program?

Answer. Yes. Furthermore, given appellate challenges to the USF, it is imperative to get legal clarity about the status of the fund.

Question 5. In addition to the FCC's programs aimed at closing the digital divide, NTIA, USDA, and the Department of Treasury are disbursing funds to support the buildout of broadband networks.

How would you characterize the coordination between the FCC, NTIA, and USDA given that they all have programs that support broadband? Are you concerned that programs administered by NTIA, Treasury, and RUS are going to overbuild FCC-funded locations? What steps can the FCC take to ensure these programs do not overbuild other federally funded networks?

Answer. I agree with you about the importance of the FCC, NTIA, USDA, and Treasury working together to avoid unnecessary duplication. For its part, the FCC should coordinate to ensure funding is directed to areas without adequate service and avoid unnecessary duplication. Congress in its wisdom required FCC, NTIA, and USDA to enter into an agreement to share information to facilitate coordinated funding decisions and I am pleased to see that these agencies entered two interagency agreements, one of which included the Department of Treasury, that specifically require coordination relating to broadband deployment. I understand that the May 12 agreement requires the agencies to share information on a regular basis about their respective funding programs and to develop consistent and complementary formats, standards, protocols, and reporting processes.

Question 6. The FCC took the bold step to lead the world by allocating all 1,200 MHz of the 6 GHz band for unlicensed services. As we prepare for the WRC in November 2023, we are asking the world to follow in our footsteps and unlock the band's potential for global Wi-Fi connectivity. I am concerned because the Commission has yet to authorize the use of VLP, enable standard power through AFC, or increase power limits through LPI. Finalizing these outstanding items seems critical to demonstrate our leadership globally.

What steps can the FCC take to bolster the U.S. delegation's position heading into WRC?

Answer. I agree that continued progress on making the 6 GHz band available for unlicensed use is important. As a member of the U.S. delegation, the FCC also should assist with working with regional telecommunication organizations to adopt a "No Change" position to the 6 GHz band under WRC–23 Agenda Item 1.2. Doing so will keep the band open and globally harmonized for unlicensed uses like Wi-Fi.

Question 7. Chair Rosenworcel announced recently that she would be asking the Commission to vote on a Notice of Inquiry examining the practices of broadband providers imposing so-called data caps on consumer broadband plans. Do you think

there is a pervasive industry problem with respect to data caps that warrants the FCC spending its time and resources to examine this practice?

Answer. I am unfamiliar with industry's practices with respect to data caps, but if confirmed I would review the record.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JERRY MORAN TO ANNA GOMEZ

Question 1. Do you believe the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is properly targeting Americans who would not otherwise have broadband service? What changes would you make to ACP to ensure it is properly targeting Americans who would not otherwise have broadband service?

Answer. Measuring uptake and adoption rates of Internet usage can be a complex endeavor as many low income households may have Internet service for a time but then may lose it during periods of economic hardship. This is why ensuring broadband affordability is so critical so that households can get and stay online. If confirmed to the FCC, I look forward to working with the Commission, your office, and others to identify additional ways to understand how we can most effectively reach these consumers.

What can be done to simplify and streamline Federal broadband affordability programs? What should be done to ensure Federal broadband affordability programs, including Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program, do not have overlapping objectives?

Answer. For so many, affordable Internet and mobile service is a true lifeline. It can be especially critical to help veterans and families in rural communities access remote health care, remote work, online upskilling and job training. If confirmed, I look forward to working with your office and the Commission to see how we can ensure these programs are available to the households who need them most.

Question 2. While significant resources have been provided to NTIA to bridge the divide for fixed services, the FCC has an opportunity to make sure that rural communities and small towns have access to mobile connectivity and the benefits of 5G wireless services. However, the rules for the 5G Fund were adopted in 2020 and may need to be updated for changes in technology and to reflect the release of the FCC's broadband maps.

Do you believe the 5G Fund should allocate support to rural areas lacking quality 5G, based on the FCC's new maps?

Answer. Yes.

Question 3. A topic of the June 21 House Energy & Commerce Committee FCC oversight hearing was whether the full commission should be required to vote on mergers and acquisitions that fall under the FCC's purview, in light of the FCC's treatment of the Standard General—TEGNA attempted merger.

Setting aside the question of whether the Chair currently has the authority to defer mergers and acquisitions to an administrative law judge without a full committee vote, as occurred in the TEGNA case, do you believe this policy needs to be amended, to ensure the full Commission is able to weigh in?

Answer. I believe that Commissioners should vote on more items, not fewer.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN TO ANNA GOMEZ

Question 1. Throughout your career, you have worked for and represented major telecommunications companies before the FCC and Congress. You have also donated to the campaigns of Democrat members on this committee and the House Energy and Commerce Committee.

Question 1a. If confirmed, how will these past actions affect your recusals from FCC proceedings?

Answer. In connection with the nomination process, I have consulted with the U.S. Office of Government Ethics and the Federal Communication Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official to identify potential conflicts of interest. If confirmed, any potential conflicts of interest will be resolved in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement into which I have entered with the Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official.

Question 1b. How will this impact your role at the FCC, if confirmed?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with the Commission's Designated Agency Ethics Official to resolve any potential conflicts of interest in accordance with the terms of the ethics agreement into which I have entered.

Question 2. Much of your focus in recent years has been dedicated to drones. Earlier this month, I introduced the STOP Illicit Drones Act with Senator Warner. That bill aims to address Chinese espionage and security threats posed by drone companies like DJI—an issue highlighted by several military branches and Federal agencies.

Question 2a. Can you speak to the threats posed by Chinese drone companies like DJI?

Answer. I am aware that sixteen U.S. senators recently asked U.S. security officials at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to assess possible threats posed by drones that are manufactured by SZ DJI Technology Company, asserting that the widely used devices could be used to inform foreign government officials about critical infrastructure such as pipelines, railways, and power stations. If confirmed, I would work with you and Senator Warner to better understand such threats and how the FCC can help address them.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED BUDD TO ANNA GOMEZ

Question 1. The FCC has been clear in the past that mid-band spectrum 2.5 GHz band spectrum can deliver 5G broadband to Americans, particularly in rural and underserved locations. That is why I am concerned that the FCC is missing an opportunity by failing to act on requests to use the 2.5 GHz band auctioned off last summer on either a permanent or temporary basis. I understand that there are 1.6 million people in my state that could receive enhanced wireless service—including wireless home internet—within days of the FCC permitting the use of this 2.5 GHz spectrum. I realize the FCC's auction authority has expired. Many experts[1], however, have said that the FCC has authority to still issue licenses won at auction and certainly has authority to permit temporary authority of that spectrum. Do you believe, like Commissioner Carr, that Section 309A of the Communications Act allows the FCC to still issue licenses won at auction? If confirmed, will you commit to finding a timely solution to get this spectrum put to use as quickly as possible?

Answer. It is my hope that Congress will act to restore FCC auction authority as quickly as possible. If that does not occur before my potential confirmation, I commit to working with the General Counsel and my colleagues to understand what actions the FCC can take pursuant to its statutory authority with regard to the 2.5 GHz band licensees, including the General Counsel's interpretation of the Commission's authority under Section 309(a) notwithstanding the expiration of the Commission's auction authority.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO TO ANNA GOMEZ

Rural Broadband Protection Act

Ensuring that USF high-cost programs are being well managed is a goal all of us share. As we await a potential Phase II auction of RDOF, there were clearly ways to improve upon Phase I—to speed up the process and to make sure smaller ISPs are better able to participate. I have a bill—the Rural Broadband Protection Act with Senator Klobuchar that seeks to improve future phases of high-cost programs by requiring a more thorough vetting and verification process for ISPs. I know I have discussed my legislation with a few of you.

Question 1. Ms. Gomez, do you support the kinds of improvements in my bill?

Answer. I support ensuring that USF funding is used for its intended purpose, and would welcome reforms, such as those in the Rural Broadband Protection Act.

ACP

Ms. Gomez, there are 108,000 West Virginians in the Affordable Connectivity Program. Affordable connectivity is a priority for me, but up to 200 percent of the Federal poverty rate to qualify and a number of other provisions leave the program too broad and open it up to potential wrongdoing.

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[1] *https://assets.law360news.com/1595000/1595328/fcc-auction-authority.pdf*

Question 2. Do you think changes to the program are needed? If so, what specifically on the waste, fraud, and abuse side?

Answer. Ensuring that broadband is affordable and reliable is critical to closing the digital divide. As someone who has experienced personally the impact of income instability, I know how important a program like the ACP is to a family struggling to pay the bills at the end of the month. If confirmed, I look forward to working with you and others at the Commission to find ways to ensure the ACP is available to those who need it most.

Tech Neutrality

A growing number of West Virginians rely on non-fiber broadband coverage—like Starlink. Last year, the FCC abruptly reversed its decision to authorize nearly $900 million to Starlink to provide high-speed broadband to hundreds of thousands of rural homes and businesses across 35 states.

Question 3. How do you feel about the importance of being technology neutral when it comes to connecting people?

Answer. I believe that successfully connecting all homes and businesses requires an "all of the above" strategy.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO ANNA GOMEZ

Alaska's dedicated high cost program, the Alaska Plan, has been a massive success that recognizes the unique challenges associated with broadband connectivity in Alaska. As you all are aware, the FCC is currently working on an extension of the Alaska Plan. The certainty of the Plan has been critical to build-out in Alaska and will continue to be, especially with the significant investments in broadband infrastructure taking place.

a. Will you commit to continue to recognize Alaska's unique needs and support an extension of the Alaska Plan?

Answer. Yes.

b. Do you agree that the Commission should work expeditiously on the extension in order to provide certainty to service in our state as more broadband deployments are being planned?

Answer. Yes.

It is assumed that if all of you are confirmed, a 3–2 Commission will re-implement the heavy handed "Net Neutrality" regulations under Title II of the Communications Act. It has been 5 years since the "Net Neutrality" regulation rollback, and I think we can agree that the apocalyptic predictions have not played out.

a. If "Net Neutrality" rules are put into place again, is it good for stakeholders and consumers to experience this sort of regulatory whiplash?

Answer. I would welcome Congressional action on net neutrality. The coronavirus pandemic demonstrated that access to broadband is no longer just nice-to-have, it is a necessity for work, education, healthcare, and for full participation in society. Title II classification is important for protecting our fundamental values of universal service and consumer protection when accessing broadband networks. Without it, the FCC would lack a mechanism for protecting the fundamental values of our most critical communications systems today.

b. Shouldn't the FCC defer to Congress to settle this issue?

Answer. I would welcome Congressional action on net neutrality.

We are in the process of distributing a historic amount of funding for broadband deployment across the country—$65 billion alone from IIJA. Alaska is eager to make the most of this opportunity, and we have more work to do than most. But one thing I continue to be very conscious of, is the letting this opportunity to go to waste. I've talked to the Chairwoman about this concern. She mentioned a number of steps to take, including making clear, loudly, from the beginning, the penalties for waste, fraud, and abuse; also extensive vetting on the front end to ensure that applicants can deliver the service and speeds they claim.

a. Do you think the various agencies tasked with distributing this money have established adequate safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse?

Answer. Yes, although, if confirmed, I would work with the agencies to ensure continued and improved safeguards to protect the programs' integrity.

b. What more can be done in terms of agency coordination?

Answer. It is important that the FCC, NTIA, USDA, and Department of Treasury work together to ensure funding is directed to areas without adequate service and to avoid unnecessary duplication.

Congress in its wisdom required FCC, NTIA, and USDA to enter into an agreement to share information to facilitate coordinated funding decisions and I am pleased to see that these agencies entered two interagency agreements, one of which included the Department of Treasury, that specifically require coordination relating to broadband deployment. I understand that the May 12 agreement requires the agencies to share information on a regular basis about their respective funding programs and to develop consistent and complementary formats, standards, protocols, and reporting processes. If confirmed, I would work with the agencies to ensure continued and improved safeguards to protect the programs' integrity.

c. What role can the IG play in this effort?

Answer. The IG can be consulted and can share their insights into ensuring program integrity. This can be especially helpful as the Commission drafts and considers rulemakings.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARIA CANTWELL TO BRENDAN CARR

Question 1. Middle mile networks are critical to lowering the cost of broadband buildout and providing affordable, accessible high-speed Internet in places that remain difficult to serve.

Two weeks ago, NTIA announced the first recipients of the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's middle mile funding. This round of funding will expand high-capacity middle mile networks across 35 states.

The announcement also provided new data on the need for new middle mile networks. NTIA received over 260 applications—and nearly $7.5 billion in requests for support—for this $1 billion program. In total, demand was seven times more than the amount Congress appropriated for the program.

Question 1a. How can the FCC promote the buildout of middle mile networks to lower the cost of broadband for consumers and achieve more redundant and resilient networks?

Answer. Ubiquitous, affordable, and accessible high-speed Internet services simply will not exist without middle mile networks. One way that the FCC can promote the buildout of middle mile networks is to further streamline the permitting process that applies to these networks. If the FCC can reduce the regulatory costs associated with building these networks, then that action would free up additional capital for the buildout and maintenance of these networks. Additional congressional action regarding the approval process for middle mile builds that traverse Federal lands could also help promote the buildout of middle mile networks. I would also welcome the opportunity to work with you or your staff on additional ideas for achieving the important public policy goal of robust middle mile networks.

Question 1b. If reconfirmed, will you commit to working with my office on developing solutions to deploy middle mile broadband via the electric grid?

Answer. Yes. I would welcome the opportunity to work with your office on solutions to deploy middle mile broadband, including via the electric grid.

Question 2. There are several important proceedings in front of the FCC, some of which have been deadlocked because of the agency's 2–2 commission. This includes an item on modifying the emission limits for the 24 GHz Band, which impacts weather data.

I have asked the Commission to fix this issue since the last administration ran roughshod over the concerns of the Department of Commerce, NASA, NOAA, and the American Meteorological Society.

Question 2a. If reconfirmed, will you commit to considering the emission limits for the 24 GHz Band, which impacts weather data?

Answer. Yes. I am also happy to work with you or your office on this issue.

Question 2b. If reconfirmed, will you also commit to working with NASA and NOAA to find ways to deploy 5G that will minimize the damage to critical weather safety incumbent users in the 24 GHz band?

Answer. Yes, I am happy to work with NASA and NOAA on ensuring that 5G and critical weather safety incumbents can coexist.

Question 3. According to a GAO report from last year, only 30 percent of people in tribal rural lands have access to broadband, more than double the number of people without access in non-tribal rural lands.

To address this issue, Congress directed $3 billion to NTIA's Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program, which provides grants to tribes seeking to build much-needed broadband infrastructure and increase broadband adoption.

Tribes in the state of Washington have received more than $93.4 million in support through the Tribal Broadband Connectivity Program. While this is significant progress, it is far from a comprehensive solution to ensure our tribal communities can access telehealth appointments, remote learning, and other online services that require high-speed internet.

Question 3.a. How should the FCC better engage with tribal communities through government-to-government consultation?

Answer. The state of connectivity on Tribal rural lands is not acceptable. In my time on the Commission, I have taken the opportunity to visit with Tribal leaders in their communities—from meetings with leaders of the Mescalero Apache Tribe in New Mexico to meetings on the Pine Ridge reservation in South Dakota and more. These visits allowed me to get a firsthand sense of the challenges that remain in connecting Tribal rural areas. Due at least in part to these visits, I have led or supported several FCC initiatives designed to improve connectivity on Tribal rural lands, including the FCC's decision to open up a rural Tribal priority window for 2.5 GHz licenses. I also requested that the FCC set aside $10 million from our ACP grant outreach program to specifically boost participation in ACP within Tribal communities. I successfully sought this set aside after a visit to the Coeur D'Alene reservation where I met with Tribal leaders to discuss expanding participation in the ACP Program. Going forward, I think the FCC can better engage with Tribal communities by conducting more regular and formal government-to-government consultations. I would welcome the chance to participate in these.

Question 3.b. If reconfirmed, will you commit to making broadband access on tribal lands a priority?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. Accurate broadband maps are critical to ensuring that broadband funding is targeted to the places that need it the most in the United States.

Last month, the FCC released an updated version of its new maps. This revised map incorporated millions of states' and local communities' challenges into the map, resulting in more than 1 million new locations being added to the map, including tens of thousands of new locations in the State of Washington.

While this is a step forward from prior versions of the map, some communities remain concerned about the map's accuracy.

Question 4.a. How should the FCC work with communities to improve on the newest version of its broadband maps?

Answer. I agree that accurate broadband maps are critical to our Nation's broadband initiatives. That is why I have been meeting directly either in person or virtually with numerous state broadband offices that are engaged with the mapping process. I am encouraged that the FCC's mapping team is continuing to work with stakeholders to resolve challenges to the latest version of the FCC map. Going forward, the FCC should continue to engage with state broadband offices as well as other stakeholders, including community leaders, and move as quickly as it can in resolving challenges to the map.

Question 4.b. How should the FCC hold Internet service providers accountable for inaccurately reporting their service availability?

Answer. The Broadband DATA Act makes it unlawful for an entity or individual to willfully and knowingly, or recklessly, submit information or data that is materially inaccurate or incomplete with respect to the availability of broadband Internet access service or the quality of service with respect to broadband Internet access service.

The Commission voted to impose a base forfeiture of $15,000 per violation on providers that file materially inaccurate or incomplete information. The FCC should hold Internet service providers accountable by applying and enforcing these rules.

Question 5. Commissioner Carr, you've stated that you oppose the FCC using its Title II authority to adopt new net neutrality regulations. At the same time, however, you have also asserted support for the concepts of net neutrality, and suggested that adopting rules under Section 706 of the Communications Act is a potential path to reach bipartisan consensus on net neutrality at the FCC.

In 2016's *U.S. Telecom Association v. FCC,* however, the D.C. Circuit stated that while its earlier net neutrality opinion, *Verizon v. FCC,* "held that section 706 gives the Commission authority to enact open Internet rules," the prior court "nonetheless vacated the anti-blocking and anti-discrimination provisions" because the Commission was prohibited from applying common carrier regulations to Title I information services (which broadband was classified as at that time).

Question 5.a. What authority do you believe the FCC currently has, besides Title II, to adopt net neutrality rules?

Answer. In our 2017 decision, we adopted a net neutrality transparency rule without reclassifying broadband as a Title II service. In that instance, the FCC relied on Section 257 of the Communications Act as authority. The D.C. Circuit later upheld that rule as authorized by Section 257.

Question 5.b. What is the impact of *Verizon v. FCC* on the FCC's ability to enact net neutrality rules under Section 706? Does it limit the FCC's ability to enact those rules, such as anti-blocking and anti-discrimination measures, without reclassifying broadband as a Title II service?

Answer. When it comes to the Federal government's authority to take action against an ISP that engages in blocking or discrimination, Title II classification is not a prerequisite. For example, pursuant to the FCC's 2017 transparency rule, which remains in effect, Comcast has disclosed that it does not engage in blocking, throttling, and similar discriminatory conduct as outlined in its disclosure. Therefore, if Comcast were to block or throttle contrary to those disclosures, the FTC could take action under its Section 5 authority.

Question 5.c. What impact does the U.S. Supreme Court's 2022 decision in *West Virginia v. EPA* have on the FCC's ability to use Section 706 to enact net neutrality regulations?

Answer. Any FCC decision to adopt net neutrality regulations, regardless of the source of authority invoked by the agency, will likely need to satisfy the standard discussed in West Virginia v. EPA.

Question 6. In several media appearances, including your October 19, 2020, appearance on iHeartRadio's Sara Carter Show, you stated that "Democrats have hopped from one hoax to the next to explain their loss at the ballot box."

Additionally, in your May 27, 2020, appearance on Tucker Carlson Tonight, when responding to questions on whether a fair and free election is possible in 2020, you stated, "Doing nothing is not an option" when an online platform like Facebook "has tossed the keys of content moderation" to its oversight board "ahead of the 2020 election."

Question 6.a. What do you mean by your statement above that "Democrats have hopped from one hoax to the next?"

Answer. If I recall correctly, the cited media appearances in 2020 related to the ongoing debate on Section 230 of the Communications Act and free speech. With respect to that policy debate, I was concerned then, and remain concerned today, that Section 230 has been interpreted in a way that, for one, departs from the plain terms of the statute as passed by Congress and, for another, promotes censorship of viewpoints. I believe the FCC has an appropriate role, as the FCC's General Counsel at the time noted, to interpret the provisions in Section 230 in a way that conforms with the terms of the statute as passed by Congress.

Moreover, I believe that my nearly six year long record on the Commission demonstrates that I work very well with all of my FCC colleagues. I am proud of the collegial, working relationships that we share. We have consistently found common ground on difficult, often thorny issues. I think that my track record of bipartisanship and promoting the public interest on the FCC is why a broad and diverse cross section of stakeholders have spoken in favor of my renomination.

Question 6.b. What did you mean by your statement on Tucker Carlson Tonight that "Doing nothing is not an option"?

Answer. If I recall correctly, I was referring there to my view that the FCC should issue a decision that interprets the terms in Section 230 of the Communications Act in a way that is consistent with the statute as passed by Congress.

Question 6.c. As an FCC Commissioner, what do you think the FCC should do when "Doing nothing is not an option"?

Answer. In the context of decisions that interpret statutory provisions of the Communications Act in ways that diverge from the plain terms of those provisions as enacted by Congress, I believe that the FCC, as the agency charged by Congress with administering the Communications Act, should issue a decision that interprets the statute in a way that is consistent with the provisions as passed by Congress.

Question 7. In March of 2020, you sent a letter to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence criticizing its investigation into Donald Trump and calling the work of the committee a "secret and partisan surveillance machine" on Twitter.



Question 7.a. Why did you send this letter to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence?

Answer. Federal law has long protected the privacy and confidentiality of Americans' call records. Section 222 of the Communications Act is one of those protections, and the FCC administers that statutory provision. Call records include the telephone numbers that Americans dial as well as the date, time, and duration of their calls. Given their nature, the FCC has determined that call records contain "highly-sensitive personal information." I sent that letter in the interests of ensuring that any collection of protected call records takes place consistent with both the safeguards that Congress put in place through Section 222 and the FCC's implementing requirements.

Question 7.b. Why did you call the committee "a secret and partisan surveillance machine" on Twitter?

Answer. There are a number of cases where, absent exigent circumstances, a committee has publicly disclosed that it has issued a subpoena for information. That public disclosure has allowed individuals, if they choose, to go to court and vindicate or attempt to vindicate any rights they may have or think they may have in maintaining the confidentiality of the information sought. Indeed, courts long ago established a process for Americans to seek judicial review before Congress obtains documents in response to a congressional subpoena.

Question 7.c. Did you ever voice similar concerns about investigations led by Republican lawmakers or Administrations?

Answer. Yes. For example, when I learned through reporting published in June 2021 that the Department of Justice in 2017 and 2018 had reportedly obtained records on Democratic Members of the House Intelligence Committee, including Rep. Adam Schiff, I re-upped my concerns and stated that "There remains a pressing need to fundamentally reform how those in political power—whether R or D—

surreptitiously obtain sensitive call records, especially when it comes to politically-motivated probes."

Question 7.d. If you did voice similar concerns in response to Questions 7.c, and those concerns were made public, please provide any records of those concerns you made in any letters, statements, and/or social media postings.

Answer.

https://twitter.com/BrendanCarrFCC/status/1404812569307668488?s=20

Question 8. You have said in interviews and tweeted that "Republicans want less censorship and more speech," while "Democrats want less speech and more censorship."

About Elon Musk's acquisition of Twitter, you said in an interview with Dana Loesch that left-leaning organizations don't support the acquisition because "they really like the type of censorship that's taking place right now, and Elon Musk said he wants to head in a different direction."

Question 8.a. Can you explain why you believe that Democrats are in favor of censorship?

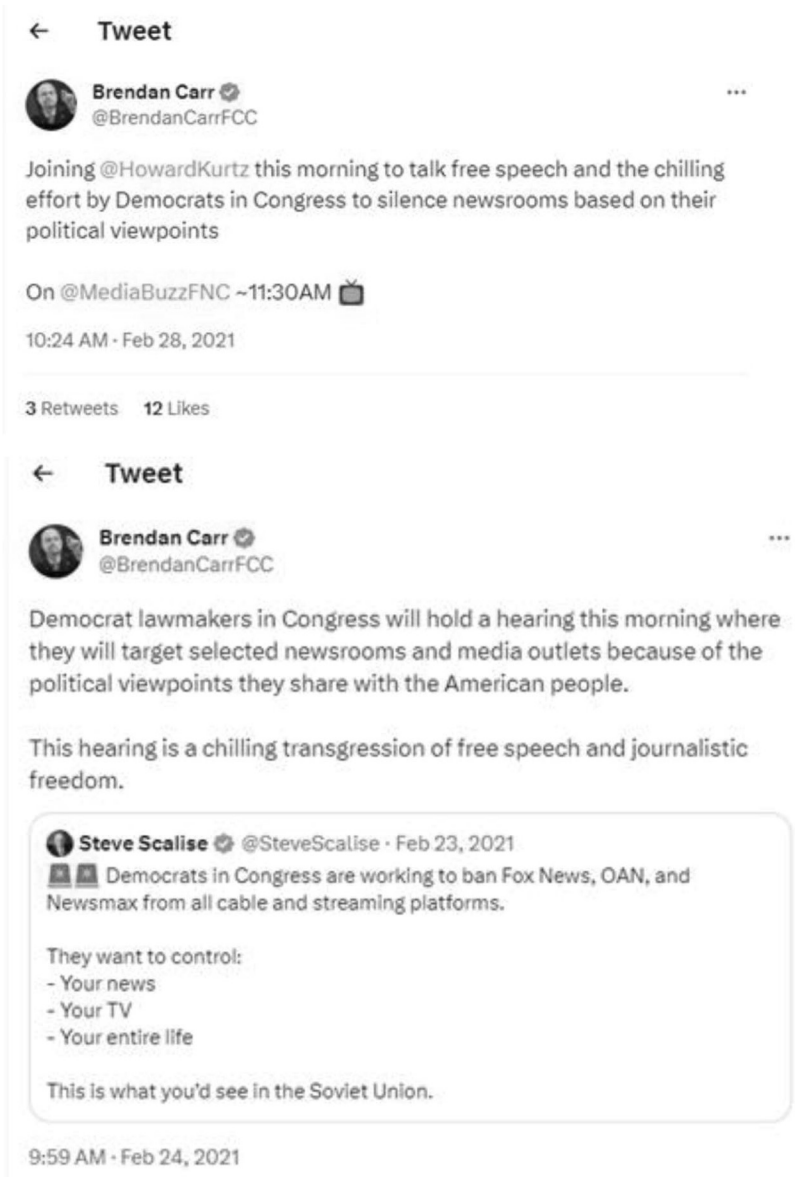
Answer. If I recall correctly, I was referring in that interview to a request that an organization filed with the FCC that called on the agency to block Elon Musk's purchase of Twitter on the grounds that the acquisition, in their view, threatened free speech. I believe I was attempting to make clear, one, that the FCC did not have the authority to block that acquisition and, two, that the government more generally should not block an acquisition of a social media site on the grounds that the acquirer would not block speech protected by the First Amendment.

Indeed, in terms of my own views, there is an ongoing debate in this country about the best way to address speech that people find objectionable. There are different takes on the path forward. I have long and consistently expressed the view that more speech is better than less. I think that debates on matters of public interest should be robust, uninhibited, and wide open; and I think this in part because this type of debate is how we can solve our most pressing problems. I believe that the remedy to speech that someone does not like or finds objectionable is counter speech.

Question 8.b. Will your belief that left-leaning organizations, some of which may have matters before the FCC, "like the type of censorship that's taking place right now," impact your ability to act as an impartial Commissioner at the FCC?

Answer. I commit to treating every entity that has a matter before the FCC in a manner that is fair, just, and impartial.

Question 9.



Question 9.a. Please explain why you posted the two tweets above.

Answer. I posted those tweets in the context of expressing my view on the First Amendment that debate on matters of public interest should be robust, uninhibited, and wide open. I believe that the best remedy to speech that someone does not like or finds objectionable is more speech. I posted them because I believe that a newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should, consistent with the First Amendment, be beyond the reach of any government official.

Question 9.b. Will your belief that Democrats are trying to silence newsrooms impact your ability to act impartially on broadcasting matters as an FCC Commissioner?

Answer. I commit to treating every entity that has a broadcasting matter before the FCC in a manner that is fair, just, and impartial.

Question 10.



Question 10.a. Please explain why you posted the tweet above.

Answer. I believe that I posted this tweet to provide my view on some of the discussions that had been taking place in a Senate hearing on Section 230.

Question 10.b. Will your belief that Democrats "want more censorship and less speech" impact your abilities to review Section 230, if it comes before you as an FCC Commissioner?

Answer. I commit to resolving any issue that comes before the FCC in a manner that is fair, just, and impartial to all parties.

Question 11.



Question 11.a. Please explain why you posted your tweet above.

Answer. I posted this tweet to distribute my February 21, 2021 press release. In that press release, I make clear that, consistent with the First Amendment, I believe that a newsroom's decision about what stories to cover and how to frame them should be beyond the reach of any government official. With respect to the particular word choice in the tweet, with the benefit of hindsight, I would have made the point about my substantive concerns with the underlying issue in a different way.

Question 11.b. As an FCC Commissioner, do you think it is appropriate to publicly suggest that Democrats—or anyone—engage in book burning, especially with no cited evidence?

Answer. I did not intend my tweet to be read as suggesting that anyone is engaged in that conduct. I sent the tweet to distribute my February 21, 2021 press release that addressed an important public policy debate about free speech. As stated above, with respect to the particular word choice in the tweet, with the benefit of hindsight, I would have made the point about my substantive concerns with the underlying issue in a different way. Moreover, I believe that my years' long record on the Commission demonstrates that I work very well with all of my FCC colleagues. I am proud of the collegial, working relationships that we share. We have consistently found common ground on difficult, often thorny issues. I think that my track record of bipartisanship on the FCC is why a broad and diverse cross section of stakeholders have spoken in favor of my renomination.

Question 12. You made multiple appearances on far-right conservative media in your role as FCC Commissioner, including at least seven appearances on The Joe Pags Show, eleven appearances on Fox Business with Neil Cavuto, two appearances on the Glenn Beck Show, two appearances on Tucker Carlson Tonight, two appearances on the Ross Kaminsky Show, four appearances on the Sara Carter Show, and a May 10, 2022 interview on the Ruthless Podcast.

Question 12.a. Do you think it is appropriate for a sitting FCC Commissioner to appear frequently on such shows? How have these media appearances influenced your policies as an FCC Commissioner?

Answer. As a public official, I think it is important to make myself available to a diverse set of journalists and media outlets. In addition to the outlets listed above, I have appeared on Morning Joe on MSNBC, on Brian Stelter's Reliable Sources show on CNN, on Meet the Press Daily with Chuck Todd, on CBS Morning News, on Roland Martin's show Unfiltered, on NPR's Morning Edition, on various CNBC shows, and more.

Likewise, I have welcomed the chance to discuss the FCC's work and policies I care about with a diverse set of additional outlets like Verge, The Economist, Billboard, The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal, local news stations, and more. With respect to the policies that I pursue as a Commissioner, I think that my years' long record at the FCC demonstrates that I work hard to find consensus and common ground, including on difficult, often thorny issues. I think that my track record of bipartisanship on the FCC is why a broad and diverse cross section of stakeholders have spoken in favor of my renomination.

Question 12.b. Ruthless Podcast's tagline is "Keep the faith. Hold the line. Own the Libs." Commissioner Carr, what does "Own the Libs" mean to you and how has that influenced your decision-making on the FCC?

Answer. I have not thought about the meaning of Ruthless Podcast's tagline. With respect to the policies that I pursue as a Commissioner, as noted above, I think that my years' long record at the FCC demonstrates that I work hard to find consensus and common ground, including on difficult, often thorny issues. I think that my track record of bipartisanship on the FCC is why a broad and diverse cross section of stakeholders have spoken in favor of my renomination.

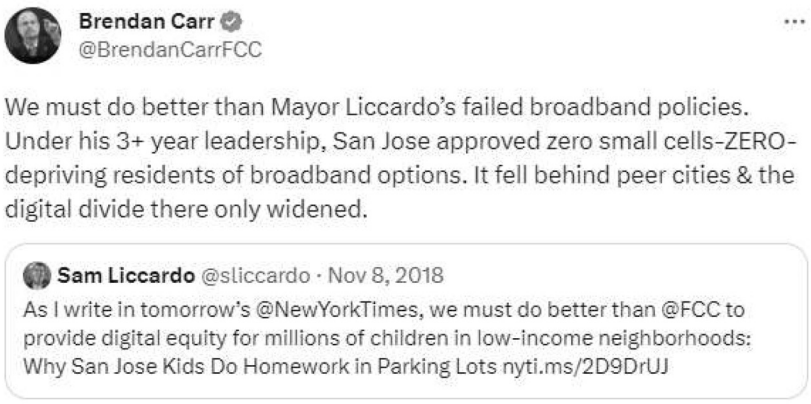
Question 13. On March 29, 2023, you "liked" a tweet that quote-tweeted you sharing survey results regarding public support on banning TikTok that mentioned "The silent majority is alive and well":



What does the "silent majority" mean in this context?

Answer. Jacob Helberg is a Commissioner on the bipartisan U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission. Commissioner Helberg's reference to the "silent majority" in this context appears to me to be a reference to the 57 percent majority of Americans, including a majority of both Republicans and Democrats, that, while perhaps not as vocal as the minority of Americans that oppose banning TikTok, support banning TikTok, according to the Marist survey that I tweeted out.

Question 14. On November 8, 2018, you Tweeted the following:



Mayor Liccardo responded to your November 8, 2018 tweet, with the following:



Can you explain why you did not validate this correction regarding San Jose's approval of small cells? Did you consider retracting your earlier tweet given that the information was incorrect? If not, why not?

Answer. This exchange with Mayor Liccardo was part of a broader debate about the types of public policies that would help accelerate the buildout of small cells—the building blocks of 5G—and thus help extend high-speed Internet service to more Americans. Going forward in my discussions on this issue, I used the 86 figure.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BRIAN SCHATZ TO BRENDAN CARR

Question 1. Do you commit to ensuring universal fixed broadband deployment to all Tribal homes and businesses?

Answer. Yes, my goal is to ensure that fixed broadband is available to all Tribal homes and businesses.

Question 2. Do you commit to ensuring universal mobile broadband deployment, including to all Tribal homes and businesses and along Tribal roads?

Answer. Yes, my goal is to ensure that mobile broadband is available to all Tribal homes and businesses and along Tribal roads.

Question 3. Do you commit to adopting additional Tribal priority access windows, just like in the 2.5 GHz auction, where it is feasible and in the public interest to do so?

Answer. Yes.

Question 4. When the United States auctions spectrum located over the lands of an Indian Tribe it does not share any portion of the proceeds with the Tribe, which is a sovereign government. Should the United States allocate a portion of these revenues to a Tribe or dedicate a portion to advancing universal and affordable communications services on the Tribal lands?

Answer. I think this is an interesting idea for Congress to consider. I would welcome the opportunity to work with you or your staff on it.

Question 5. Do you commit to expanding access to unlicensed spectrum? What bands do you view as the most promising opportunities to expand unlicensed access?

Answer. Yes, I would vote in favor of the FCC expanding access to additional unlicensed spectrum. There are promising opportunities for expanding access and use of existing unlicensed bands. For instance, I have called on the FCC to open up the 6 GHz band for client-to-client device communication as well as authorize the operation of very low power devices, which could prove key to enabling AR/VR. I have also called for the FCC to look at updating our rules in U–NII–2C (5470–5725 MHz), which is vastly underutilized today due to costly and cumbersome technical constraints on operations in the band.

Question 6. Please provide your analysis of how well the FCC's new broadband maps portray the availability of broadband on Tribal lands. Should the FCC display Tribal boundaries just as it displays state boundaries? If not, why not? Should the FCC provide the number of locations associated with individual Tribal areas, in addition to offering an aggregated rollup of the number of Tribal locations and Tribal broadband availability nationwide? Are there changes you believe the FCC needs to adopt with respect to how it displays broadband availability on Tribal lands?

Answer. Without an overlay on the FCC map that shows Tribal boundaries, it is difficult to provide an assessment of how well the FCC's new maps portray the availability of broadband on Tribal lands. I have checked the new FCC map for a number of Tribal lands that I have visited while on the FCC, including the Coeur d'Alene reservation, Mescalero Apache reservation, and the Pine Ridge Indian reservation. I believe that an accurate assessment would require the FCC to display Tribal boundaries, and I would support the FCC doing so. I would also support the FCC providing the number of locations associated with individual Tribal areas in addition to offering an aggregated rollup. I think those would be good reforms that the FCC should adopt.

Question 7. In 2011 the FCC committed to working with Tribal communities and ensuring connectivity by establishing the FCC Native Nations Communications Task Force. This commitment was renewed in 2018 for three years. Since 2021, the term of the Commission has been extended annually. Do you commit to making this Task Force permanent?

Answer. To the extent there is no legal constraint on the FCC making the Native Nations Communications Task Force permanent or some reason why making it permanent would somehow impair the body's work, I would support making it permanent.

Question 8. As the most populated remote place in the world, Hawaii has unique broadband needs, particularly with respect to inter-island and transpacific submarine cables. The State currently has significant plans in place to build inter-island submarine cables and to incentivize transpacific submarine cable landings. Can I have your commitment that you will not interfere with the State's plans and, to the extent it ever becomes necessary, that you will help ensure that Hawaii has the inter-island and transpacific submarine cable connectivity it needs?

Answer. I am not familiar with the State's plans to build inter-island submarine cables. I would welcome the chance to learn more about it and find ways that I can support the work. I am interested as well in the opportunity to visit the State to hear firsthand about the challenges that remain and how I can further support the expansion of affordable broadband across Hawaii.

Question 9. In 2020, the FCC Native Nations Communications Task Force published "Recommendations for Improving Required Tribal Engagement Between Cov-

ered Providers and Tribal Governments." Since publication, what steps has the FCC taken to meet these recommendations?

Answer. In December 2020, Tribal members of the Native Nations Communications Task Force (Task Force) developed a report to the Commission on recommendations for improving required engagement between those eligible telecommunications carriers that are recipients of universal service high-cost funds to provide communications services on Tribal lands and Tribal governments regarding deployment and provisioning of service on Tribal lands. Increased engagement is key to the FCC fulfilling its obligations. In consultation with staff from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau and the Office of Native Affairs and Policy (ONAP), I have identified the following Tribal engagements by the FCC since the publication of the Native Nations Communications Task Force's recommendations:

- Rulemaking Outreach (E-Rate for Schools and Libraries): FCC staff, often including representatives from the Office of the Chairwoman, conducted 10 Tribal library tours/roundtables and 2 Tribal consultation and listening sessions.
- ACP Outreach: FCC staff conducted 7 ACP outreach events, including webinars, Tribal meeting presentations, Tribal summit booths. Multiple events included more than one outreach format (*e.g.,* a workshop and an in-person leadership event).
- FCC Tribal Workshops: On February 27, 2023, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians hosted an FCC Tribal workshop at their facility in Solvang, CA. Another workshop will be hosted by the Lummi Nation, Ferndale, Washington, on July 12–13, 2023.
- Native Nations Communications Task Force Meetings: In 2023, alone, there have been three meetings of the task force.
- FCC Systems: The FCC has updated the ONAP webpage and has initiated a e-mail distribution of Tribal leaders, Tribal IT directors, other Federal agencies and other interested parties and individuals. As of today, ONAP has sent out almost 50 messages on upcoming funding and educational opportunities and related Commission activities.

I would welcome the opportunity to work with you and your staff to ensure that the FCC is living up to its obligations.

Question 10. Do you support 100 percent buildout requirements for new wireless licenses, covering all roads, homes, and businesses, especially including on Tribal lands?

Answer. I am open to this idea. Wireless carriers now routinely provide service in excess of the minimum geographic coverage requirements in their FCC licenses. I would be open to considering expanding the buildout obligations beyond the FCC's current approaches because doing so could help ensure that we reach 100 percent coverage.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH TO BRENDAN CARR

I am concerned about the lack of coordination that took place between the FCC, NTIA, and the FAA during the initial rollout of 5G.

We averted an aviation crisis—barely—in January of last year when President Biden's Administration helped broker a deal to delay full rollout of 5G to give airlines time to retrofit their altimeters to avoid interference.

If aircraft are not retrofitted by July 1st, they might not be able to conduct lower visibility approaches and may need to divert.

What I find so frustrating is that none of this confusion and delay should have been necessary. The FCC and FAA should have better coordinated much earlier in the process. The clear lack of coordination amongst industry and government stakeholders to consider all impacts of spectrum use and facilitate desired outcomes negatively impacted aviation and broader stakeholders, including those in the telecommunications sector seeking to deploy and utilize spectrum.

There needs to be more accountability at FCC and collaboration and risk mitigation planning between the FCC, NTIA, and agencies like the FAA whose industries will be impacted by new telecommunication technologies.

Unfortunately, when we've asked the FCC about its willingness to be more forthcoming with the FAA, we've heard a reluctance to do so.

Question 1. What additional authority, if any, does FCC need to share more information and better collaborate about new communication technology, including risk mitigation planning, earlier in the process with impacted agencies such as the FAA?

Answer. I am not aware that the FCC needs additional authority to share more information and better collaborate with the FAA. I agree with you that there needs to be better information sharing and collaboration. No one should want to see a repeat of the post-auction C-Band issues. I would welcome the chance to work with you or staff on ways that the agencies can accomplish this goal.

Question 2. Can I have your commitment that you will use all existing authority to ensure spectrum policy addresses safety issues, to collaborate and do risk mitigation planning on new communication technology with impacted agencies like FAA?

Answer. Yes, I would welcome the opportunity to further collaborate with the FAA on spectrum issues.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY BEN RAY LUJÁN TO BRENDAN CARR

Subject. *Digital Discrimination*

Commissioner Carr: Congressional intent for the digital discrimination statute in the Infrastructure Investment & Jobs Act (Section 60506) was clear. Preexisting law already prevents intentional discrimination—Congress did not pass a redundant statute. This section requires companies to consider the disparate impact of their business decisions, including the impact of making deployment decisions based upon an area's income.

When we met in my office ahead of this hearing, you told me you were still considering whether disparate impact was the appropriate standard for analyzing digital discrimination claims. During your confirmation hearing last week, when asked about disparate impact, you told Senator Cruz, "I think you need something more than your effect". Later in the hearing, you reiterated that "effect alone isn't enough". You also said that "there are things short of [a] smoking gun that could be sufficient evidence to qualify for discrimination". Finally, you indicated that you were open-minded as to how to resolve the issue.

Question 1. Please provide a detailed explanation on how you would approach a digital discrimination claim with an analysis that would require more "effect", but less than a "smoking gun". What standard lies in between intentional discrimination and disparate impact?

Answer. Thank you for the opportunity to address this. While I am still working through many of the issues in this proceeding, I am not of the view that the FCC would need to find a "smoking gun" memorandum or a particular type of direct evidence of intent to find that there has been digital discrimination of access within the meaning of Section 60506. For instance, there may be a range of different types of evidence that could amount to sufficient circumstantial evidence of discrimination that would be sufficient to meet the digital discrimination of access standard in Section 60506. At the same time, I do not believe that evidence of effect, standing alone, would be sufficient. If that were the case, that level of evidence would be unable to account for circumstances like one the FCC previously identified where two areas—Los Angeles County and Los Angeles City—had two very different outcomes with respect to new small cell builds due to two very different regulatory environments. As part of the FCC's ongoing proceeding, the FCC has not adopted a definition of digital discrimination of access and has sought comment, among other things, on adopting a definition that incorporates elements from both disparate impact and disparate treatment, among other ideas.

Question 2. There are often unique characteristics of homes and small businesses that Internet service providers consider when making economic and technical decisions about future capital investment to connect a community—such as expected rate of return, difficult topography, or long driveways. What characteristics should remove a home or small business from the protections reinforced by Congress in Section 60506?

Answer. At this stage in the FCC's ongoing rulemaking, I am not prepared to rule out any home or small business from the protections in Section 60506 based on its characteristics.

Question 3. Yes or no, do you believe that disparate impact is a "fringe liberal theory"?

Answer. That is not how I have referred to disparate impact.

Subject. *Freedom Not to Speak*

Commissioner Carr: You are a staunch advocate for "robust, uninhibited, and wide open" debate online on matters of public interest. But the right to speech is also the right not to speak.

As you well know, President Donald Trump withdrew Mike O'Reilly's nomination to the FCC, in part, because then Commissioner O'Reilly stated that "The First Amendment protects us from limits on speech imposed by the government—not private actors—and we should all reject demands, in the name of the First Amendment, for private actors to curate or publish speech in a certain way.

Question 3. Do you believe it is constitutional for the government to limit social media companies' ability to remove content from their platforms when the company finds such content objectionable, and maintains a consistent policy to remove such content?

Answer. It would depend on the nature of the government action. For instance, I can think of a lot of cases where the government would violate the First Amendment by limiting a social media company's ability to remove content that it finds objectionable. At the same time, the government can, in appropriate cases, impose conditions on the right to exclude or not carry speech. One example is the recent decision by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit, which upheld the constitutionality of a Texas state law that generally prohibited large social media platforms from censoring speech based on the viewpoint of the speaker. That appellate court decision is consistent with a number of Supreme Court cases (like Pruneyard and Rumsfeld) that have held, in appropriate cases, that the government may lawfully regulate the right to exclude.

Question 4. Do you believe social media companies should be classified as common carriers, with carriage requirements to transmit information regardless of the content?

Answer. My position is not that social media companies should be classified as common carriers; rather, I think that some of the antidiscrimination obligations that have applied in various contexts should be applied to social media companies in a way that both promotes more speech and empowers individuals to make their own decisions about the content they want to consume.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN HICKENLOOPER TO BRENDAN CARR

Broadband Workforce. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law includes generational investments to make high-speed broadband affordable and accessible for all Americans. With roughly $42 billion available for States through the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, it is important our Nation has a workforce trained and equipped to build the broadband networks of tomorrow.

Section 60602 of the *Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act* required the Telecommunications Interagency Working Group to provide Congress a report identifying challenges and offering recommendations to grow the broadband workforce. This report, entitled *Recommendations to Address Workforce Needs,* was submitted to Congress on January 13, 2023

Question 1. Commissioner Carr, what core principles or development traits do you believe should form the basis of effective and scalable training programs for individuals to enter the broadband workforce?

Answer. I have had the chance to work with stakeholders on standing up a number of community college and trade school programs throughout the country that can train tower climbers and telecom crews. These types of jobs programs are vital to producing the workforce we need to complete America's broadband builds. Some of the lessons that I have learned in that context include, one, selecting schools that are located near military bases because this can increase the likelihood that service members will be attracted to these careers after their military service concludes, two, lining up a nearby tower company that can support the new program (either through teaching classes or assisting with the equipment and other start up needs) and, three, working to spread the word about the program within area high schools so that the pipeline of potential new workers stays strong. I would welcome the chance to work with you or your staff on ways to add additional tower climber programs, including in Colorado.

Wireless Emergency Alerts. Wildfires continue to increase in their frequency and devastation across the U.S. In Colorado, the Marshall Fire wreaked havoc on the Boulder community as first responders fought to suppress the fire and evacuate residents. After the Marshall Fire, we learned the Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system was not used due to longstanding concerns about the geolocation accuracy of alerts being delivered to devices in a specified area.

I, along with Senator Bennet, sent a letter to the Commission encouraging action and adoption of items found in the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

(FNPRM) entitled "*Improving Public Reporting on Wireless Emergency Alert Reliability",* including steps to improve the geolocation accuracy of WEA alerts sent to cellular devices. We were pleased to see the Commission release the results of its *nationwide test of the WEA system,* which included participation from first responders in Colorado. This nationwide test demonstrated that while "91.9 percent of volunteers located within the target areas received a test alert", mobile devices over 3 miles outside a target area still received an alert, indicating that "geofencing works approximately one third of the time."

Question 2. Commissioner Carr, what technological, regulatory, or other barriers do you believe prevent the Commission from adopting stronger standards regarding the geolocation accuracy and delivery of alerts sent through the WEA system?

Answer. A lack of trust can undermine the effectiveness of the Nation's Wireless Emergency Alert (WEA) system. Receiving alerts that are not relevant to your geographic area only contributes to consumers tuning these potentially life-saving alerts out. I would welcome the chance to work with you or your staff as well as my FCC colleagues on steps we can take to improve the geolocation accuracy of WEA alerts.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. RAPHAEL WARNOCK TO BRENDAN CARR

Affordable Internet Access. The Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's broadband infrastructure investments have put the United States on the cusp of closing the digital divide. Closing this gap will allow millions of Americans to access the Internet and connect with others in education, health care, and numerous other sectors. That said, broadband infrastructure is just half of the equation. Without investments in digital equity and affordability, many Americans will struggle to afford this new infrastructure and may continue to be left behind in the digital age. One of the hallmarks of Federal digital equity and affordability resources is the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which provides a monthly Internet service discount and one-time discount for households to purchase a laptop, desktop, or tablet.

Question. In addition to encouraging ACP enrollment, what more can the FCC do to help address barriers to accessing devices and continued issues of Internet affordability for middle and low-income families and historically marginalized communities?

Answer. One of the goals the FCC set out when it adopted rules implementing the ACP program was to bridge the digital divide. I think the FCC should continue to target the program to those families that have lacked Internet access due to affordability issues.

Question. What mechanisms would you add to measure the impact of the ACP on closing the digital divide and improving broadband affordability, and how would you regularly share that data with states to better inform local digital inclusion work?

Answer. I think the FCC should be providing more data about the number of Americans on ACP that previously lacked an Internet connection due to affordability issues. I think this step would help the FCC in its efforts to measure the impact of the ACP program and provide Congress with more information as it focuses on the future of ACP. The FCC should also make this data available to states and the public.

Question. Can public-private partnerships help improve broadband affordability in high-need and high-cost communities? If so, what more can the FCC do to encourage these partnerships?

Answer. Yes. The FCC's ACP grant outreach program may be one example, and I am looking forward to gathering more information on how this initiative operates in practice. There may be lessons learned there that we could build on.

Question. What is your best estimate of when the ACP will come to an end if Congress does not provide additional authorization and appropriations? What would the impact be on families if the ACP program came to an end?

Answer. According to the ACP Enrollment and Claims Tracker, there is approximately $8,645,310,050 remaining (as of July 4, 2023). As part of the ACP final rules, the FCC directed the Bureau, in coordination with OMD, OEA, and USAC to develop a forecast of the depletion of the funding appropriated by Congress. My understanding is that ACP funds are expected to run out of funding in the first half of next year. Understanding the significance of this program to consumers and anticipating the possibility that it may run out of funding, the FCC instructed staff to identify a process for notifying the public of the timing of the end of the program

as the funds are nearing depletion. Importantly, we recognized the potential for bill shock for low-income consumers should funds be depleted. As such, the ACP rules require providers obtain an affirmative opt-in from consumers to continue providing service to the household and to charge a higher rate than the household would pay if it were receiving the full discount permitted under ACP rules.

Question. Following the implementation of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) Broadband, Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, millions of Americans, particularly in high-cost areas, will have Internet service and access for the first time. What should the FCC do to ensure this new service remains affordable after the conclusion of the BEAD program, especially in high-cost areas?

Answer. NTIA recently announced the allocation of BEAD dollars across the states, including $1.3 billion for Georgia. I have worked directly with numerous state broadband offices to help ensure the success of this initiative. The FCC has a number of ongoing support programs, including programs aimed at addressing the affordability portion of the digital divide. The FCC, NTIA, and states should work together to ensure that all of our efforts are complementary. I would welcome the chance to work with you or your staff on this issue.

Supporting Local Media.

Question. What tools can Congress give the FCC to strengthen localism and media diversity?

Answer. I think the FCC could have improved media diversity if it had approved the Standard General transaction. And I think the FCC has a role to play in encouraging additional investment in local news. I am worried that the FCC's decision in Standard General will have a chilling effect on this necessary investment. So one step Congress could take to address this would be to reform the FCC's transaction review process. One idea would be for Congress to require that the full Commission vote on large scale mergers like the one that was at issue in Standard General. That could help provide parties with more transparency and predictability. Congress could also act to codify broadcast incubator programs. I supported the FCC's adoption of a radio incubator program, and have called for the agency to extend that into the broadcast television industry.

Universal Service Fund.

Question. Do you believe the FCC has authority to act on modifying the Universal Service Fund?

Answer. I do not believe that the FCC has authority to expand the contribution base to include the full suite of technology companies that benefit from the program.

Question. What do you believe needs to be done to reform the Universal Service Fund?

Answer. I believe that Congress and the FCC need to consider contributions reform in addition to ensuring that the program has strong protections in place to address waste, fraud, and abuse.

Question. What can Congress do to support reforming the Universal Service Fund in a positive way?

Answer. One step that I think Congress and the FCC should work on is reforming the Universal Service Administrative Company (USAC). Imposing shot clocks on USAC decisions is one step that could help ensure a more responsive, predictable USF program.

Buy America Compliance for Broadband Programs. On February 9, 2023, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) released a draft rule entitled "Guidance for Grants and Agreements," which detailed statutory authority for the Made in America Office in OMB to maximize and enforce compliance with Made in America laws.[1] This draft rule lays out guidance for defining construction versus manufactured materials and provides implementation guidance to Federal agencies on the application of Buy America preference to Federal financial assistance programs for infrastructure and a transparent process to waive such a preference when necessary.[1] The application of a final rule on this matter will be critical in the rollout of the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) Program, which will provide $42.45 billion in funding to states for planning, deployment, and adoption of

[1] *https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2023/02/09/2023–02617/guidance-for-grants-and-agreements*

high-speed Internet access.[2] The definitions of broadband infrastructure and its components such as fiber optic cable and optical glass under a final rule, and thus their applicability to Build America, Buy America requirements, will impact how many producers will be able to supply the infrastructure needed to implement the BEAD program. Overall, it is important that states, municipalities, and their contractors have access to the necessary infrastructure to implement BEAD and that this infrastructure is affordable and able to be delivered on an efficient timeline in order to maximize the efficacy of the BEAD program.

Question. Do you believe it is important to have multiple Build America, Buy America compliant producers of optical glass to ensure the efficient distribution of fiber under the BEAD program?

Answer. I believe that BEAD builds would benefit from multiple, domestic options for optical glass producers.

Spectrum Use. In March 2023, the FCC's authority to auction spectrum lapsed for the first time in three decades.[3] It is crucial that spectrum be allocated fairly, while protecting the American security interests that utilize spectrum bands.

Question. How can the FCC more effectively work with other Federal agencies responsible for regulating spectrum use?

Answer. In 2022, the FCC and NTIA announced a new initiative to improve U.S. government coordination on spectrum management. I am open to additional process reforms and would welcome the chance to work with stakeholders on that issue.

Question. How can the FCC effectively allocate both licensed and unlicensed spectrum resources to drive innovation?

Answer. The FCC's spectrum policy should provide a mix of both licensed and unlicensed spectrum. I put forward a spectrum calendar in 2021 that sets forth specific actions the FCC should take in the near term on both licensed and unlicensed spectrum. I believe the FCC itself should publicize a similar calendar that represents the views of the full Commission.

Question. What steps can the FCC take to work with the those who won licenses for the 2.5 GHz spectrum band, while still working with congressional and administration leaders to extend the Commission's auction authority?

Answer. I think the FCC has authority under Section 309(a) to issue licenses to any provider that won a 2.5 GHz license notwithstanding the lapse in the FCC's Section 309(j) authority to conduct new spectrum auctions. I think the FCC should issue those licenses because it would bring millions of Americans across the digital divide or provide them with access to better service.

Question. What steps can the FCC take to work with Congress and other Federal agencies to resolve concerns about L-band spectrum terrestrial use?

Answer. I would welcome the chance to work with you or your staff on ways to resolve concerns about the L-Band.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO BRENDAN CARR

Question 1. You have advocated for expanding the Universal Service Fund (USF) revenues base, specifically by assessing a tax on technology companies that offer streaming services, online advertising services, cloud services, and online gaming services. Do you agree that before taking steps to expand the revenue base, the FCC should reexamine the spending side of USF and enact meaningful reforms to eliminate wasteful, inefficient spending?

Answer. Yes, I agree that the FCC should reexamine the spending side of USF to enact meaningful reforms to eliminate wasteful, inefficient spending now while Congress considers the broader question about whether, and if so how, to amend the Communications Act by changing the potential contributions base.

Question 2. What are some steps the FCC could take to address wasteful, inefficient USF spending today?

Answer. One step I think the FCC can and should take to help address wasteful, inefficient USF spending is to codify in our rules a requirement that the Commission confer with the FCC's Inspector General before the agency adopts orders or takes actions that implicate USF spending. In doing so, the Commission should in-

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[2] *https://broadbandusa.ntia.doc.gov/funding-programs/broadband-equity-access-and-deployment-bead-program-0*

[3] *https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairwoman-rosenworcel-expiration-spectrum-auction-authority*

clude in its decisional documents the recommendations offered by the FCC's Inspector General and the Commission's response to those recommendations. I would also welcome the thorough review and views of FCC Inspector General nominee Fara Damelin on reforms to the USF programing if the Senate confirms her nomination.

Question 3. The FCC currently does not have authority over edge providers. Are you concerned about unintended consequences of giving the additional authority to the agency?

Answer. I believe that all regulators must act solely within the scope of authority delegated by Congress. Indeed, our constitutional system requires this. If Congress makes the decision to expand the contribution base to include edge providers, it could do so in a way that does not confer on the FCC any substantive regulatory authority over edge providers or Congress could otherwise limit any delegated authority to the terms specified by Congress in the statute.

Question 4. If you become Chairman, will you commit to maintaining former Chairman Pai's policy on publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote?

Answer. I have been honored to serve as a Commissioner since 2017 and, if confirmed by the Senate, would welcome the opportunity to continue serving as a Commissioner.

Decisions about whether a Commissioner should also serve as Chairman of the FCC are made by the President. As long as I serve on the Commission, I am committed to maintaining the policy of publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote.

Question 5. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally supporting maintaining Chairman Pai's policy on publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote?

Answer. Yes, I am committed to maintaining the policy of publicizing FCC meeting items prior to the Commission's vote.

Question 6. If you become Chairman, will you commit to making non-meeting items (referred to as "circulates") public at the same time Commissioners are considering them?

Answer. In my view, the FCC Chairman should establish a policy that publicizes non-meeting items. I commit to maintaining that view for as long as I serve on the Commission.

Question 7. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally supporting making circulates public at the same time Commissioners are considering them?

Answer. I have vocally supported making circulates public and have been successful in achieving that goal on occasion. I am committed to continuing to speak up for that for as long as I am serving on the Commission.

Question 8. If you become Chairman, will you commit to allowing any two Commissioners to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote?

Answer. FCC Chairs have on occasion, although not consistently, followed a policy known as the 48-hour rule. That uncodified, informal rule (as I understand it) allows any two Commissioners to bring a 48-hour item up for a Commission level vote. I have long advocated for the FCC Chairman to allow any two Commissioners to exercise that right. I am committed to maintaining my view on this issue and acting consistent with it for as long as I am serving on the Commission.

Question 9. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally supporting allowing any two Commissioners to call up a bureau level item for a Commission vote?

Answer. As noted above, I am committed to maintaining my view on this issue and acting consistent with it in my time on the Commission.

Question 10. If you become Chairman, will you commit that you will not block a large transaction without a Commission vote?

Answer. Under the Communications Act, if the Commission cannot find that granting a particular transaction would serve the public interest, the application must be set for a hearing before the Commission's Administrative Law Judge. This is a serious decision, particularly in large transactions, that in my view must reflect the will of the Commission. I believe that all Commissioners must be presented with an opportunity for a vote on any such action, and I am committed to acting consistent with that view for as long as I serve on the Commission.

Question 11. Irrespective of whether you become Chairman, will you commit to vocally opposing the Chairman/Chairwoman if they block a large transaction without a Commission vote?

Answer. Yes, I have spoken out on this issue, and I am committed to continue doing so.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN THUNE TO BRENDAN CARR

Question 1. In addition to the FCC's programs aimed at closing the digital divide, NTIA, USDA, and the Department of Treasury are disbursing funds to support the buildout of broadband networks.

How would you characterize the coordination between the FCC, NTIA, and USDA given that they all have programs that support broadband? Are you concerned that programs administered by NTIA, Treasury, and RUS are going to overbuild FCC-funded locations? What steps can the FCC take to ensure these programs do not overbuild other federally funded networks?

Answer. Over the past few years, Congress has appropriated billions of dollars for initiatives aimed at ending the digital divide, and I am concerned that at least some components of the Federal government are not putting appropriate guardrails in place. This worries me given both the magnitude of dollars at issue and the unique opportunity these funds provide for connecting American families. In fact, by my count, about $800 billion has been appropriated by Congress or budgeted by agencies for infrastructure programs over the past few years alone that could be used on efforts to bridge the digital divide. Those funds are spread across a range of different agencies—including the FCC, Department of Agriculture, Department of Treasury, Department of Education, and Department of Commerce—and over an assortment of various programs.

The GAO has identified a number of concerns when it comes to coordination across Federal broadband programs. One GAO report identified over 100 Federal broadband programs that are being administered by 15 different agencies. GAO recommended a national broadband strategy to help synchronize these efforts. I agree that a national coordinating strategy is necessary and would help ensure that various Federal programs complement each other, rather than operating in a duplicative manner.

I am concerned that without greater coordination across these programs one Federal broadband program may very well end up overbuilding another one. That is a problem for a variety of reasons, including the fact that doing so would divert resources from parts of the country that still have no real broadband option. Ensuring that the various Federal programs operate off of the FCC broadband maps may be one key step to helping to avoid duplicative spending.

Question 2. The FCC took the bold step to lead the world by allocating all 1,200 MHz of the 6 GHz band for unlicensed services. As we prepare for the WRC in November 2023, we are asking the world to follow in our footsteps and unlock the band's potential for global Wi-Fi connectivity. I am concerned because the Commission has yet to authorize the use of VLP, enable standard power through AFC, or increase power limits through LPI. Finalizing these outstanding items seems critical to demonstrate our leadership globally.

What steps can the FCC take to bolster the U.S. delegation's position heading into WRC?

Answer. I agree with you that the FCC should take additional action in the 6 GHz band ahead of WRC, including authorizing the use of VLP and more. I called for many of the same actions in a 2021 speech. Action by the FCC now in the 6 GHz band would bolster U.S. leadership in the run up to WRC.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JERRY MORAN TO BRENDAN CARR

Question 1. Do you believe the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) is properly targeting Americans who would not otherwise have broadband service? What changes would you make to ACP to ensure it is properly targeting Americans who would not otherwise have broadband service?

What can be done to simplify and streamline Federal broadband affordability programs? What should be done to ensure Federal broadband affordability programs, including Lifeline and the Affordable Connectivity Program, do not have overlapping objectives?

Answer. When the FCC adopted final rules to implement the ACP in January 2022, the Commission adopted specific performance measures, including reducing the digital divide among low-income Americans. The FCC also directed USAC to de-

velop a tracker and make it available on a website. The FCC determined that the tracker would include data on ACP households that previously subscribed to a provider's low-income program. It is not clear to me that this tracker is available on either the USAC or FCC website. I think the data that the FCC anticipated would be included in that tracker would be useful in assessing how well ACP is properly targeting Americans who would not otherwise have broadband service.

For my part, I have long expressed the view that the FCC through its ACP implementation must remain focused on those families that still remain unconnected today. Those that have not yet adopted broadband must be our top priority, and throughout the ACP rulemaking process I have sought to orient the program in this direction.

Most recently, when adopting rules for the Commission's ACP outreach grant program, I pushed to ensure that the FCC prioritized applications that target households that are on no Internet plan at all. The item also adopted a $10 million set-aside for bolstering ACP participation within Tribal communities. I have seen first-hand the challenges that remain when it comes to ending the digital divide on Tribal lands, so I was pleased that the FCC dedicated funding to make more progress on this issue.

One step that I think Congress and the FCC should work on is reforming USAC. Imposing shot clocks on USAC decisions is one step that could help ensure that the Commission's broadband affordability programs are more responsive and predictable. The Commission should also undertake a broader review of its broadband affordability programs to ensure that the programs are meeting their objectives in a cost effective manner and address any issues with unnecessary duplication.

Question 2. While significant resources have been provided to NTIA to bridge the divide for fixed services, the FCC has an opportunity to make sure that rural communities and small towns have access to mobile connectivity and the benefits of 5G wireless services. However, the rules for the 5G Fund were adopted in 2020 and may need to be updated for changes in technology and to reflect the release of the FCC's broadband maps.

Do you believe the 5G Fund should allocate support to rural areas lacking quality 5G, based on the FCC's new maps?

Answer. I agree that the circumstances have changed dramatically since the rules for the 5G Fund were adopted in 2020. I would support a review of those rules to account for the current marketplace and to ensure that awards are made based on the FCC's new broadband maps.

Question 3. A topic of the June 21 House Energy & Commerce Committee FCC oversight hearing was whether the full commission should be required to vote on mergers and acquisitions that fall under the FCC's purview, in light of the FCC's treatment of the Standard General—TEGNA attempted merger.

Setting aside the question of whether the Chair currently has the authority to defer mergers and acquisitions to an administrative law judge without a full committee vote, as occurred in the TEGNA case, do you believe this policy needs to be amended, to ensure the full Commission is able to weigh in?

Answer. Yes, I believe the full Commission should be able to vote on a decision to send a transaction like the one in Standard General—TEGNA to the FCC's administrative law judge.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY MARSHA BLACKBURN TO BRENDAN CARR

Question 1. Last month, an FCC spokesperson said the "FCC is actively studying the potential impacts of artificial intelligence, in particular the opportunities for advanced communications networks like spectrum sharing and wireline network management, as well as its potential as a tool and a challenge for consumers."

Question 1a. Can you provide an update on the FCC's work related to AI?

Answer. On July 13, 2023, the FCC and NSF are co-hosting a workshop entitled "The Opportunities and Challenges of Artificial Intelligence for Communications Networks and Consumers." Beyond this workshop, I am not aware of the status of the AI work referenced by that FCC spokesperson. My view is that the FCC should look to Congress's leadership on this issue.

Question 1b. What should Congress be considering about AI with respect to communications networks and spectrum sharing?

Answer. AI has the potential to dramatically reshape nearly all aspects of our lives, not least of all how our communications networks function. But the precise path of this change is far from clear at this point. Congress has the ability to bring

together experts across multiple disciplines to help ensure that any potential legislative intervention will allow AI to flourish consistent with our enduring values.

Question 2. The Chinese Communist Party poses a direct threat to American interests, particularly in the tech industry. This has been recognized by both Republicans and Democrats, who have been vocal about ByteDance and TikTok, the Chinese drone company DJI, submarine cables connecting the U.S. and China, and the need to rip and replace Huawei equipment from our networks.

Question 2a. What role does the FCC play in combatting Chinese tech threats?

Answer. Over the past few years, the FCC has been busy working to safeguard our networks from entities that threaten our national security, particularly those aligned with the CCP.

We are doing so on multiple fronts. For one, we have revoked the domestic and international Section 214 authority of four carriers—China Telecom Americas, China Unicom Americas, Pacific Networks, and ComNet—based on serious national security concerns. For another, the Commission opened a proceeding in 2021 at my urging to address a loophole that allowed entities like Huawei to continue to install equipment into U.S. networks even after they have been determined to pose an unacceptable risk to our national security. Indeed, this important initiative benefited from congressional action when it passed the Secure Equipment Act. That legislation gave the FCC additional authorities to close this loophole, which we did in a unanimous decision just last fall.

But there is more work to be done. As I have previously outlined, the Federal government should take action along at least three additional lines to address the threats posed by Communist China. One, the FCC needs to keep our Covered List up to date. We have taken some targeted actions along those lines, but we must continue to ensure that the list is current and comprehensive by engaging regularly and proactively with our national security agency partners. Two, the FCC should build on our actions in the Section 214 context by opening a new proceeding to examine whether we should prohibit regulated carriers from directly interconnecting with entities that have been deemed a national security risk, even if those entities are operating in a manner that does not require a Section 214 authorization. I believe this would address a potential end-run that entities may be making to avoid the repercussions of having their Section 214 authorizations revoked. And three, the FCC should publish a list of every entity with an FCC license or authorization that has sufficient ties back to a foreign adversary, including Communist China. I would imagine that this is a fairly lengthy list. And this action would help ensure that a range of stakeholders can provide any relevant information or perspectives about national security threats that these entities may pose.

Question 2b. We recently learned of a relationship between autonomous vehicle car Waymo and Chinese company Geely, which has launched satellites using CCP resources. What risks could Chinese access to satellites pose to U.S. consumers and how can Congress and the FCC work together to mitigate these threats?

Answer. The importance of U.S. leadership in space-based communications cannot be overstated. Likewise, we must remain vigilant to the serious threats posed to our networks, devices, and technologies from entities that are beholden to the CCP. I would welcome the chance to work with your office to explore this issue in greater detail.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO TO BRENDAN CARR

Rural Broadband Protection Act

Ensuring that USF high-cost programs are being well managed is a goal all of us share. As we await a potential Phase II auction of RDO, there were clearly ways to improve upon Phase I—to speed up the process and to make sure smaller ISPs are better able to participate. I have a bill—the Rural Broadband Protection Act with Senator Klobuchar that seeks to improve future phases of high-cost programs by requiring a more thorough vetting and verification process for ISPs. I know I have discussed my legislation with a few of you.

Question 1. Commissioner Carr, do you support the kinds of improvements in my bill?

Answer. Yes. I have had the great pleasure to visit with you in West Virginia and see firsthand the impacts of your efforts to expand Internet access in rural communities. The Rural Broadband Protection Act, which you introduced with Senator Klobuchar, seeks to bring accountability and transparency to the FCC's high-cost programs, which I support.

Broadband Maps

Commissioner Carr, I'm excited about the BEAD funding coming to West Virginia and know that the improved FCC maps have made a big difference. The second version of the maps that was released last month showed significant improvements compared to those from last year. I understand that there are additional versions that are likely to refine the maps even further.

Question 2. Can you tell me how you would work to improve the maps for future versions?

Answer. The FCC recently released the official production version of its new location-based broadband map. I was pleased to see that this version represents a significant improvement over the initial version released last fall. Our new and improved map was made possible thanks to the leadership of Congress by enacting the Broadband DATA Act and providing $98 million in funding to support our work. Better maps will help ensure that government officials properly target the billions of dollars in Federal funds that are now available for broadband, and it is imperative that future iterations of the map reflect up-to-date deployment and location data.

In order to ensure that future versions of the map show continued improvement, the FCC must work directly with stakeholders to identify and resolve remaining issues with the maps and to ensure that they reflect up-to-date deployment data. This means meeting with industry, state and local officials, state broadband offices, and tribal groups, among others. This broad outreach will greatly improve the challenge process and the continued accuracy of the Commission's broadband maps.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO BRENDAN CARR

Question 1. Alaska's dedicated high cost program, the Alaska Plan, has been a massive success that recognizes the unique challenges associated with broadband connectivity in Alaska. As you all are aware, the FCC is currently working on an extension of the Alaska Plan. The certainty of the Plan has been critical to build-out in Alaska and will continue to be, especially with the significant investments in broadband infrastructure taking place.

Question 1a. Will you commit to continue to recognize Alaska's unique needs and support an extension of the Alaska Plan?

Answer. Yes. I have had the chance to visit Alaska twice in my time on the Commission. Those visits provided me with a firsthand look at the unique challenges that Alaska faces when it comes to ensuring connectivity and the successful results being delivered by the Alaska Plan. I support extending the Alaska Plan.

Question 1b. Do you agree that the Commission should work expeditiously on the extension in order to provide certainty to service in our state as more broadband deployments are being planned?

Answer. Yes. Particularly in Alaska, it is vital that the FCC provide the certainty necessary to support broadband deployments across the state's unique areas.

Question 2. It is assumed that if all of you are confirmed, a 3–2 Commission will re-implement the heavy handed "Net Neutrality" regulations under Title II of the Communications Act. It has been 5 years since the "Net Neutrality" regulation roll-back, and I think we can agree that the apocalyptic predictions have not played out.

Question 2a. If "Net Neutrality" rules are put into place again, is it good for stakeholders and consumers to experience this sort of regulatory whiplash?

Answer. No, not all. Consumers, innovators, and all stakeholders would benefit from a stable and predictable regulatory framework.

Question 2b. Shouldn't the FCC defer to Congress to settle this issue?

Answer. Yes, deciding whether to apply Title II utility-style regulations to the Internet is a major question for which the FCC should defer to Congress.

Question 3. We are in the process of distributing a historic amount of funding for broadband deployment across the country—$65 billion alone from IIJA. Alaska is eager to make the most of this opportunity, and we have more work to do than most. But one thing I continue to be very conscious of, is the letting this opportunity to go to waste. I've talked to the Chairwoman about this concern. She mentioned a number of steps to take, including making clear, loudly, from the beginning, the penalties for waste, fraud, and abuse; also extensive vetting on the front end to ensure that applicants can deliver the service and speeds they claim.

Question 3a. Do you think the various agencies tasked with distributing this money have established adequate safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse?

Answer. I am concerned that the numerous Federal agencies that are implementing various broadband spending programs are not doing so in a coordinated manner or with adequate safeguards in place. Indeed, over the past few years alone, by my count, Congress has appropriated or agencies have budgeted about $800 billion on infrastructure initiatives that could be used on efforts to bridge the digital divide. Those funds are spread across a range of different agencies—including the FCC, Department of Agriculture, Department of Treasury, Department of Education, and Department of Commerce—and over an assortment of various programs.

Among other issues, I am concerned by an apparent lack of adequate tracking, measurement, and accountability standards. For example, in July 2021, I wrote letters to each of the Executive Branch agencies listed above, and I asked them to identify the steps they were taking to track and monitor the broadband initiatives that they were funding. Their responses—or in some cases lack thereof—did not inspire confidence. One Department wrote back that, at least at the time of their response, "it is not possible to identify a specific amount that exclusively went to broadband initiatives," let alone, I assume, monitor the progress being made towards achieving eligible broadband goals.

A key component to effective oversight and coordination is the FCC's new broadband maps. Two months ago, the FCC released the official production version of its location-based broadband maps. I was pleased to see that these maps were an improvement over earlier versions. Better maps will help ensure that we properly target the billions of dollars in Federal funds that are now available for broadband—in order to avoid wasteful overbuilding—and it is imperative that future iterations of the map reflect up-to-date deployment and location data.

Question 3b. What more can be done in terms of agency coordination?

Answer. Last year, a GAO report identified over 100 Federal broadband programs that are being administered by 15 different agencies. GAO recommended a national broadband strategy to help synchronize these efforts. I agree that a national coordinating strategy is necessary and would help ensure that various Federal programs complement each other, rather than operating in a duplicative or otherwise inefficient manner.

Question 3c. What role can the IG play in this effort?

Answer. One step I think the FCC can and should take to help address wasteful, inefficient USF spending is to codify in our rules a requirement that the Commission confer with the FCC's Inspector General before the agency adopts orders or takes actions that implicate USF spending. In doing so, the Commission should include in its decisional documents the recommendations offered by the FCC's Inspector General and the Commission's response to those recommendations. I would also welcome the thorough review and views of FCC Inspector General nominee Fara Damelin on reforms to the USF programing if the Senate confirms her nomination.

Response to Written Questions Submitted by Hon. Maria Cantwell to Fara Damelin

Question 1. The FCC Inspector General is responsible for ensuring accountability in the funding programs that the FCC is tasked with administering.

One example is the FCC's Emergency Connectivity Fund or "ECF" program which was created during the pandemic to provide schools and libraries with the tools their communities needed for remote learning.

When establishing programs such as this one, the FCC creates rules for eligibility and participation that can often be complex in nature, for the purpose of ensuring that Federal dollars are used effectively.

Question 1a. How will you ensure accountability in the management of the FCC's funding programs?

Answer. The programs administered by the FCC are similar in nature to other complex Federal programs I have helped to protect over the years, containing detailed program rules around eligibility and participation to ensure that Federal funds are expended as directed and intended to support specific communities and goals.

If confirmed, I will take the same approach as I have in my prior OIG oversight positions to ensure accountability in the management of the FCC's funding programs, focusing first on maximizing transparency around open recommendations and devoting resources to helping the FCC close those that are most impactful towards protecting complex public benefit programs.

This involves identifying all pending open recommendations from prior OIG reports, engaging with the FCC to learn the status of these recommendations, and

working with the Commission to resolve them. As part of this process, the FCC OIG would identify "priority open recommendations," that if resolved, would have the greatest impact on helping the FCC address its most significant accountability challenges, to include in the administration of these complex, large dollar value programs. This would allow the FCC to direct its resources first to those priority areas likely to have the largest impact in protecting its highest risk programs. To maximize transparency over this process, I would explore strategies to publicly post all related reports and associated open recommendations on *www.oversight.gov*.

Question 1b. How will you navigate the audit and investigation process given the complex nature of the rules for each of the FCC's several funding programs?

Answer. OIGs are guided by core oversight principles and authorities set forth in the Inspector General Act, by legislation directing OIGs to issue mandatory reports, and by standards promulgated by the IG community through the Council of Inspectors General on Integrity and Efficiency (CIGIE) and by the U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO). To meet these requirements, OIGs employ auditors, investigators, evaluators, attorneys, data analysts, and administrative professionals who have expertise, training, and the tools to objectively and thoroughly analyze and evaluate complex Federal programs across the government to provide impactful oversight.

If confirmed, as I have done in other OIGs where I've served, I will independently lead comprehensive and impartial audits, investigations and other reviews that are informed by subject matter experts, using criteria provided by the relevant statutes, regulations, policies, program notices, guidelines, and forms. For highly technical matters, I will ensure that we draw expertise from subject matter experts within the FCC OIG, the FCC, the Universal Service Administrative Company, Congress, the GAO, law enforcement partners, and federal, state, tribal, and industry stakeholders. Based on my experience as Whistleblower Protection Coordinator for AmeriCorps OIG, whistleblowers are another crucial source of information, and I will seek to promote whistleblower protections and expand outreach and education to potential whistleblowers. In addition, I will ensure that the FCC OIG has the policies, processes, training, and resources, as well as the skills and experience necessary to provide comprehensive, thorough, and timely audits, evaluations, investigations, and other reviews. Further, I will continue to benchmark with other OIGs as well as the GAO and the Pandemic Response Accountability Committee (PRAC) to identify leading practices and find opportunities to collaborate on joint oversight initiatives.

Question 1c. What do you anticipate will be the biggest challenge in overseeing large amounts of Federal funding at the FCC, and how will you handle this important task?

Answer. Based on my experience within the IG community, the biggest challenge will be to prioritize oversight opportunities and projects based upon the highest risk, and to ensure that our limited resources are expended towards helping the FCC maximize efficiency in its programs and operations, and protect FCC programs from fraud, waste, and abuse.

Working with the FCC OIG and key stakeholders, I will consider risk factors to inform oversight priorities, including but not limited to, the scope of potential financial loss, timeliness and urgency, and the impact on vulnerable populations. I will ensure that we develop a comprehensive communication and outreach plan, sharing an immediate vision of transparency and accessibility with all FCC OIG staff, the FCC Commissioners and staff, Congressional members and staff, and external stakeholders.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO FARA DAMELIN

Question 1. Will you agree to provide all information and documentation sought by me in my capacity as Ranking Member pursuant to my congressional oversight authority?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, I agree to provide all information and documentation that you seek in your capacity as Ranking Member pursuant to your congressional oversight authority, as authorized by law.

Question 2. Will you commit to immediately informing me and members of this Committee if you are subject to political pressure or other influences from the Executive Office of the President, political appointees within the Federal Communications Commission, or any other outside entities that would prevent you from independently and objectively performing your duties as Inspector General?

Answer. Yes. If confirmed, in accordance with the Inspector General Act, I commit to keeping Congress fully and currently informed, to include notifying the Chair, Ranking Member, and Members of this Committee without delay if I am prevented from independently and objectively performing my duties as Inspector General, due to political pressure or other influences from the Executive Office of the President, political appointees within the Federal Communications Commission, or any other outside entities.

Question 3. What steps will you take to ensure that the FCC Office of the Inspector General (OIG) conducts investigations thoroughly and impartially?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that FCC OIG investigations are conducted in accordance with applicable professional standards and adhere to all key principles including thoroughness, impartiality, fairness, objectivity, timeliness, and ethics.

I will ensure that the FCC OIG investigators follow the facts and evidence, and conduct investigations independently and objectively from inception to conclusion, without bias or political influence. In addition, I will work with the FCC OIG staff to ensure that the FCC OIG's internal investigative policies are in full compliance with applicable professional standards and incorporate leading practices from the IG community.

Question 4. The FCC's Acting Inspector General is in the process of completing an audit of the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), focused on the program's effectiveness in expanding broadband adoption. The Acting FCC IG plans to publish this report in November 2023. Will you commit to completing this report and keeping it on track for release in November 2023?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring the timely and thorough completion of all ongoing FCC OIG audits in accordance with applicable professional standards, which incorporate requirements related to ethics, independence, impartiality, professional judgment, competence, professional education, and quality control. I will ensure that the FCC OIG auditors follow the facts and evidence, and conduct audits independently and objectively from inception to conclusion, without bias or political influence.

Because I am not currently with the FCC OIG, I do not know the status of the referenced audit and have not been briefed on the current findings, milestones, and outstanding data or information requests. However, if confirmed, I will make it a priority to obtain a full briefing on the status of this audit and, if it has not yet been issued, I will promptly provide you and your staff with an update and answer any questions that you may have.

Question 5. As you are aware, I have asked the FCC's Acting Inspector General to investigate the handling of the Standard General-TEGNA transaction due to the appearance of partisan bias. Will you commit to thoroughly completing this investigation?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring the timely and thorough completion of all ongoing FCC OIG investigations in accordance with applicable professional standards, and that the FCC OIG investigators follow the facts and evidence, and conduct investigations independently and objectively, without bias or political influence.

Because I am not currently with the FCC OIG, I have not been briefed on the portfolio of investigations or other oversight being conducted by the office. In general, to protect the integrity of ongoing investigations, OIGs do not confirm or deny the existence of a pending investigation.

If confirmed, I will promptly obtain a full briefing from the FCC OIG on the status of any pending oversight, to include investigations, audits, evaluations, and other reviews. If permitted by law, I will notify you if there is pending oversight related to the referenced transaction and provide general expectations around timing. In addition, I commit to engaging with you and your staff to ensure that I understand the full scope of your concerns.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO FARA DAMELIN

To All Nominees:

Question 1. We are in the process of distributing a historic amount of funding for broadband deployment across the country—$65 billion alone from IIJA. Alaska is eager to make the most of this opportunity, and we have more work to do than most. But one thing I continue to be very conscious of, is letting this opportunity to go to waste. I've talked to the Chairwoman about this concern. She mentioned

a number of steps to take, including making clear, loudly, from the beginning, the penalties for waste, fraud, and abuse; also extensive vetting on the front end to ensure that applicants can deliver the service and speeds they claim.

Question 1a. Do you think the various agencies tasked with distributing this money have established adequate safeguards against waste, fraud, and abuse?

Answer. Fraud risk management and reducing improper payments are key challenges across the Federal government, as documented by numerous OIG and GAO reports issued over the past several years. These challenges have been exacerbated since the pandemic, with the expedited release of unprecedented amounts of Federal funding to address emergency circumstances, to include the long-term health, education, and economic hardships caused by the pandemic and emergency circumstances. Due to time pressures in releasing funding quickly, some agencies have had difficulty building in adequate controls at the front end of program distribution to identify high risk recipients and protect program funds from fraud, waste, and abuse.

Question 1b. What more can be done in terms of agency coordination?

Answer. During my tenure with the National Science Foundation Office of Inspector General, I had the opportunity to coordinate with other OIGs and program officials on protecting small business program funding administered through multiple Federal agencies. We shared and compared data, identified leading practices such as internal controls and fraud indicators, and produced and delivered joint training and outreach. This coordinated effort culminated in joint workshops and the development of resources to share leading practices to protect program funding across the government. The Office of Management and Budget recently issued two memoranda towards improving agency coordination to take a government-wide approach to protecting Federal funds: *Promoting Accountability through Cooperation among Agencies and Inspectors General (whitehouse.gov)* and *Advancing Effective Stewardship of Taxpayer Resources and Outcomes in the Implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.* The latter memorandum focused on how agencies can better work together to protect Federal programs under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act administered across multiple Federal agencies.

The strategies identified by OMB can help protect government programs through enhanced coordination and include approaches I've seen implemented successfully throughout my career. OIGs are often in the position to identify opportunities for increased coordination among agencies to protect Federal programs, with longstanding working groups such as the IG community's Grant Fraud Working Group and Whistleblower Protection Coordinator Working Group. If confirmed, I will look for opportunities such as these to enhance coordination to protect FCC programs.

Question 1c. What role can the IG play in this effort?

Answer. As noted above, during my tenure with the IG community, I have actively participated in coordinated efforts with agencies, OIGs, law enforcement, working groups and task forces, to protect Federal programs and our communities and promote efficiencies in Federal programs.

OIGs can be instrumental in helping to ensure program integrity across the government by engaging with their agencies to promote accountability, to include sharing leading practices and internal controls, developing joint anti-fraud training and outreach, and enhancing the use of administrative remedies to protect programs government-wide. In addition, OIGs coordinate with external stakeholders to benchmark leading practices, identify duplication and overlapping programs, engage in joint proactive initiatives, develop resources to highlight common fraud indicators and lessons learned, and offer legislative and regulatory language to best protect Federal programs.

If confirmed, I commit to continue to engage in activities such as the above to promote program integrity at the FCC and to protect broadband funding and other FCC programs from fraud, waste, and abuse.

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