

**NOMINATION TO THE NATIONAL AERONAUTICS  
AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION AND THE  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

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**HEARING**

BEFORE THE

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE,  
SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
UNITED STATES SENATE**

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

APRIL 9, 2025

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



Available online: <http://www.govinfo.gov>

U.S. GOVERNMENT PUBLISHING OFFICE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ONE HUNDRED NINETEENTH CONGRESS

FIRST SESSION

TED CRUZ, Texas, *Chairman*

|                                     |  |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| JOHN THUNE, South Dakota            | MARIA CANTWELL, Washington, <i>Ranking</i> |
| ROGER WICKER, Mississippi           | AMY KLOBUCHAR, Minnesota                   |
| DEB FISCHER, Nebraska               | BRIAN SCHATZ, Hawaii                       |
| JERRY MORAN, Kansas                 | EDWARD MARKEY, Massachusetts               |
| DAN SULLIVAN, Alaska                | GARY PETERS, Michigan                      |
| MARSHA BLACKBURN, Tennessee         | TAMMY BALDWIN, Wisconsin                   |
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| TED BUDD, North Carolina            | JACKY ROSEN, Nevada                        |
| ERIC SCHMITT, Missouri              | BEN RAY LUJAN, New Mexico                  |
| JOHN CURTIS, <i>Utah</i>            | JOHN HICKENLOOPER, Colorado                |
| BERNIE MORENO, Ohio                 | JOHN FETTERMAN, Pennsylvania               |
| TIM SHEEHY, <i>Montana</i>          | ANDY KIM, New Jersey                       |
| SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO, West Virginia | LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER, <i>Delaware</i>      |
| CYNTHIA LUMMIS, Wyoming             |  |

BRAD GRANTZ, *Republican Staff Director*

NICOLE CHRISTUS, *Republican Deputy Staff Director*

LILA HARPER HELMS, *Staff Director*

MELISSA PORTER, *Deputy Staff Director*

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**NOMINATION TO THE  
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE  
ADMINISTRATION AND THE FEDERAL  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 9, 2025**

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

The Committee met, pursuant to notice, at 10:25 a.m., in room SR-253, Senate Russell Office Building, Hon. Ted Cruz, Chairman of the Committee, presiding.

Present: Senators Cruz, Wicker, Fischer, Moran, Sullivan, Blackburn, Young, Budd, Schmitt, Curtis, Moreno, Sheehy, Capito, Lummis, Cantwell, Klobuchar, Markey, Peters, Baldwin, Duckworth, Rosen, Luján, Hickenlooper, Kim, and Blunt Rochester.

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

The CHAIRMAN. Today, we will hear from Jared Isaacman, who has been nominated to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, NASA; and from Olivia Trusty, who has been nominated to the Federal Communications Commission, the FCC.

NASA has always been at the forefront of American leadership. In 1969, that meant putting a man on the Moon, today, it means returning there; this time to stay.

Our nominee, Jared Isaacman, has been active in the commercialization of space exploration. In 2021, Mr. Isaacman commanded the first all-civilian spaceflight, Inspiration4.

In 2024, he flew his second commercial mission, going further into space than any other manned mission since Apollo 17. He brings a unique perspective to the challenges facing NASA and the space industry.

Today, NASA is at a crossroads. The explosive growth of the commercial space sector, from hardware manufacturers to space tourism ventures, has transformed the celestial and economic landscape. Space is no longer the exclusive domain of sovereign nations and a handful of legacy defense contractors. The democratization of space has spurred growth, reduced launch and satellite costs, and fostered the curiosity of the next generation.

At the same time, the future of the final frontier has never been more uncertain. In military terms, space is the ultimate high ground. A nation that dominates in space can deprive others, not only of intelligence capabilities, but modern conveniences like GPS

and satellite internet. And make no mistake; the Chinese Communist Party has been explicit in its desire to dominate space, putting a fully functional space station in low Earth orbit and robotic rovers on the far side of the Moon.

We are not headed for the next space race. It is already here. President Trump alluded to this race in his inaugural address when he envisioned American astronauts on Mars. I strongly support the President's vision. In fact, my 2017 NASA Authorization Act was one of the very first pieces of legislation President Trump signed in his first term, and it explicitly enshrined this goal in law.

But the pursuit of the next horizon cannot mean abandoning American dominance where it is already established. The International Space Station has been continuously manned for more than 20 years, serving as a hub for research and testing together with our international partners in space exploration. While we will eventually have to retire the ISS, before that happens, we must put the necessary systems in place to support and command American astronauts continually in low Earth orbit. We cannot surrender low Earth orbit to the Chinese or to the Russians. Likewise, the Artemis mission, launched during President Trump's first term, is set to return American astronauts to the Moon and establish a sustained human presence there.

Joining us in the audience today, as we heard earlier this morning, are the four Artemis II astronauts: Reid Wiseman, Victor Glover, Christina Koch, and Jeremy Hansen.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. In the next year, they will fly to and orbit the Moon, setting the course for Artemis III's return to the lunar surface in 2027. The Artemis mission and the entire Moon to Mars program, which have enjoyed consistent bipartisan support, serve as a stepping stone to landing American astronauts on Mars. In fact, this stepping-stone approach is explicitly in the law as enacted by Congress. We must stay the course.

An extreme shift in priorities at this stage would almost certainly mean a red Moon, ceding ground to China for generations to come. I am hard-pressed to think of a more catastrophic mistake we could make in space than saying to Communist China: The Moon is yours, America will not lead.

So I look forward to hearing from Mr. Isaacman about his goals for NASA, his commitment to Artemis, how he intends to refocus and reinvigorate the Agency in its core mission, and how he will ensure America continues to lead the world in space exploration.

Let me now turn to the Federal Communications Commission, which faces its own set of challenges. The Agency's Universal Service Fund was recently challenged in the Supreme Court. Its Broadcast Ownership Rules are ill-adapted to the modern media environment. And most significantly, in March 2023, the FCC lost its authority to conduct Spectrum auctions for the first time ever. This ongoing lapse in auction authority has cost jobs and has weakened America's global standing.

Increasing the amount of Spectrum available for commercial use will secure our preeminence in telecommunications and will unlock billions of dollars for domestic investment, creating hundreds of thousands of jobs.

Olivia Trusty has nearly 20 years of relevant experience in telecommunications. She is currently a staff member at the Armed Services Committee, which is chaired by our colleague, Senator Wicker, who will be introducing her this morning. Ms. Trusty has also worked as a policy director here at the Commerce Committee, giving her well-rounded views of the interests of both the Department of Defense and the commercial industry when it comes to mid-band spectrum. I am confident that Ms. Trusty will be an asset at the FCC, where she will champion a Spectrum pipeline, protect free speech, and ensure access to fast and affordable Internet.

I look forward to hearing from both of today's nominees and learning how they hope to advance American greatness within their institutions.

I now turn to Ranking Member Cantwell for her opening remarks.

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

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And good morning to our two nominees: Mr. Isaacman, Ms. Trusty, congratulations on this nomination. Mr. Isaacman, obviously for NASA, and Ms. Trusty for the Federal Communications Agency.

First, Mr. Isaacman, nominee for the Administrator of NASA, as my colleague was just saying, the space race is heating up. You will have a critical task of delivering mission-critical, on-time, and on-budget challenges for the United States of America over the next 4 years to make sure that we do not lose in that space race. This includes successful execution on the Artemis program, which will take the United States back to the Moon and ultimately the goal of getting to Mars.

The NASA Authorization Bill, which Senator Cruz and I co-sponsored, strongly backs the Artemis program. It includes a lunar lander redundancy, NASA's Space Launch SLS system, and critical to America's leadership in space, getting Americans back to the Moon.

The State of Washington has long been a home to aviation, but now, with over 40 companies across the State of Washington producing space-related products, we have over 2,000 employees working just on the Artemis program. So we're invested. These companies supply components for the Gateway Space Station, the Orion crew capsule, the two crewed lunar landers, the SLS heavy lift rocket, and its ground system.

Beyond space exploration, NASA is also one of the world's top R&D organizations. We had a chance to talk about that in my office, about NASA's discoveries and science that are helping us with our aerospace industry overall. NASA scientists and engineers provide the crucial evidence and information to both government and industry on issues like AI, quantum, advanced aerospace materials, and next-generation manufacturing.

So I know a consortium in my state, standing up a tech hub, has been an applicant that NASA has been very supportive of.

I do have concerns as we move forward about reports in the press about where the administration will come down on invest-

ments. I hope we can talk about this today and clarify your position as it relates to these priorities for our Nation. For example, in March of—last month, *The Wall Street Journal* reported that the Trump administration was considering major changes to the Artemis program. You, too, have also made past statements about changes to the program. And if NASA does terminate the SLS and relies only on commercial rockets, such as SpaceX and Blue Origin, New Glenn, experts say Americans will not get to the Moon before the end of the decade, so a lot of scientific analysis resting on your shoulders, and then the budget capabilities to convince our colleagues to make these investments.

Like the Chairman, I want to win the race. I want to make sure that China does not beat us to Mars. And I hope that even with this recent announcement of theirs, that we beat them to the Moon. I strongly believe that safety and resiliency, built through redundancy and innovation through competition is a key. So I would like to hear your views on that this morning.

We are also seeing the administration, and DOGE specifically, cancel research grants to fund science agency and lay off highly skilled technical experts across the Federal Government. According to the news reports, NASA has confirmed an announcement by DOGE that up to \$420 million in agency contracts have been canceled. So this is of concern, sorting out how this cancellation impacts many different organizations.

Meanwhile, tomorrow is the last day of work for several top NASA advisors, including the chief economist, the chief scientist, and the chief technologist, their positions were eliminated because of the DOGE agenda. Reports indicate that the Fiscal Year 2026 budget request might slash NASA's science funding by half.

So Mr. Isaacman, all of these are in the news, and we will want to understand your commitment to these issues, or understanding your strategy about how you see us making these commitments to invest in science for the future.

Now to Ms. Trusty; certainly welcome to you and your family who is here. I think you definitely outnumber the astronauts in the room, which is, we very much appreciate that.

[Applause.]

Senator CANTWELL. It is good to have that support, and your nomination comes at a critical time for the FCC. We want to have a communications system that is admired by the world, and we know that you are no stranger to this issue, working very diligently for Senator Wicker, both here on this committee and now on the Armed Services Committee.

The FCC plays a vital role in Spectrum policy management and commercial airwaves, and I have long advocated, as I said in my earlier statement, for an evidence-based system. During the first Trump administration, the rush to auction, I think, raised some concerns. Most notably, they sold the C-band without proper FAA coordination about the impacts of aircraft altimeters creating an unnecessary problem that almost caused flights to be grounded, and slowed down the implementation of 5G.

So I hope we will hear about that issue, how you see us getting a more balanced approach in communication. Because of the FCC's influence over some of our most important institutions, including

the media, and the internet, and providers, the FCC is an independent agency not subject to direct Presidential control, but this tradition is under attack.

The Trump administration is seeking to bring independent agencies, like the FCC, under the President's direct control. Recently, the President fired two Democratic commissioners at the independent Federal Trade Commission without cause. So let me be clear, removing independent commissioners based on their party affiliations sets a dangerous precedent.

I expect this administration will maintain a full FCC staff with five commissioners, including two Democrats, and meanwhile, the Trump administration FCC Chair has launched a series of investigations into media companies that the President doesn't like, so I was very happy to see this recent decision on holding up the AP, very important to have a very, very competitive landscape when it comes to media and news production.

The FCC should return to its longstanding role as a neutral, independent regulator, and so look forward to asking you questions about that as well today. But again, congratulations on your nomination.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. And in a moment I will recognize Senator Wicker. But I do want to note in addition to the four Artemis II astronauts who are here, we actually have a total of ten astronauts in the room. We have had six more. We have the astronauts of Polaris Dawn: Scott Poteet, Sarah Gillis, and Anna Menon; and we have the astronauts of Inspiration4; Hayley Arceneaux, Chris Sembroski, and Dr. Sian Proctor. So to the six of you as well, thank you for your service, and welcome.

[Applause.]

The CHAIRMAN. And I have to say, anytime you have ten astronauts in the room, that this may be the most badass assemblage at a Commerce Hearing that I have seen.

And with that, I recognize Senator Wicker to make an introduction.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ROGER WICKER,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MISSISSIPPI**

Senator WICKER. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. And yes, thank you for introducing all of our astronauts, and as you can see, Senator Fischer and I engaged in a little hero worship before you hit the gavel and started this.

But I am absolutely delighted to introduce and recommend to the Committee and to the Senate, Olivia Trusty as the next member of the FCC.

I am unqualified, actually, to tell what a great nominee she is. And also, I hope there is some work being done back at my office. We have a number of staffers who slipped away, and I think there are probably a number of people watching on the telephone. But I am profoundly appreciative for this honor, and appreciative to President Trump for making this nomination.

I frankly cannot conceive of a more qualified nominee. Oliver Trusty performs work at the highest level of excellence and she does it for the right reasons, and for 7 years now I have been the

beneficiary of her expertise, but frankly this Committee, and the Armed Services Committee, and Full Senate have also been the beneficiary of her expertise.

When I became Chairman of the Commerce Committee, I was fortunate that Olivia agreed to join my committee staff. A few years later, I became a Ranking Member of the Armed Services Committee and I knew there was one member of this committee staff that I wanted to bring over to handle her portfolio there.

Olivia Trusty has helped all of us advance initiatives that made America more connected and more secure, initiatives that fall squarely within the Federal Communication Commission's jurisdiction. On technology party, she has helped us pass legislation to improve maps. She has worked to ensure broadband funds are directed where they are most needed and where Congress intended them to be.

She has brought us closer to getting more Americans connected to high-speed internet. And of course we are not quite where we need to be. I think she will help us in this new position get there quicker.

Her work has contributed to national security. She was instrumental in advancing legislation to free our domestic networks from communications equipment manufactured by foreign adversaries.

She has been a leader on Spectrum policy, an area that bridges both technology and national security. She has collaborated with members and staff across the Commerce and Armed Services Committees to find common ground between commercial and Federal interest. Olivia Trusty wants to help our country maintain our leadership without risking national security, and she has worked to make that happen.

I could go on and on, but Olivia does like brevity. She chooses her words carefully and concisely. Let me just say she plays chess, not checkers. She sees around the corners. She shoots straight and she will shoot straight with members of this committee and the Senate. She uses common sense and adherence to the law, and she will do so as a commissioner.

On a personal basis, she is serious about her faith. She is an NCAA gymnast at UNC Chapel Hill. She is a Mormon Republican from Maryland, for heaven's sake.

[Applause.]

Senator WICKER. And those of us who know her know that she will do a magnificent job. And actually we are fortunate that she has chosen to work in the public sector for the taxpayers, and I could not give a more resounding endorsement to her nomination.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I will say that it is very impressive, particularly that she plays chess, and not checkers and shoots straight, I will say shooting is a novel strategy in chess, but whatever works and gives you the checkmate. There is more than one way to defeat the king.

And with that, I recognize the junior senator from Montana, Senator Sheehy, to introduce Mr. Isaacman.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TIM SHEEHY,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MONTANA**

Senator SHEEHY. You had to put “Junior.” in front of it, didn’t you, Ted?

[Applause.]

Senator SHEEHY. For nearly 70 years the United States—

The CHAIRMAN. I am still the junior senator from Texas; this place, that could stick around a long time.

Senator CANTWELL. I am the longest-serving junior member.

[Laughter.]

Senator CANTWELL. So yes, 24 years you could still be the junior member.

[Laughter.]

Senator CANTWELL. I wear it with a badge of honor.

[Laughing]

Senator SHEEHY. Well, thank you, Chairman and Ranking Member. For nearly 70 years, the United States has been at the forefront of space exploration. President Trump knows how critical it is for our country to lead the way yet again as our space program aims to reach new heights and that is why he chose exactly the right man for the job, Jared Isaacman.

I have personally known Jared for several years sharing an aviation community in Montana and cooperating with him on improving the education experience for our next generation of explorers, astronauts, engineers, and pilots who attend Space Camp at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center in Huntsville, Alabama.

Of note, both Jared and I attended Space Camp, an arduous 5-day program for small children, and I would say it lit a spark in both of us to chase the dream of aviation and aerospace. We both dreamed of being astronauts as children. The difference is Jared actually is one, whereas I had to settle for the decidedly less cool title of Senator.

America has been the leader of global space travel for generations, pushing the boundaries of science and testing limits of human endurance and intellect. All Americans should be deeply proud of the incredible accomplishments of heroes like Alan Shepard, John Glenn, Neil Armstrong, Jim Lovell, and many others.

The sacrifice and leadership of these brave astronauts is what most Americans know well. What they usually do not know is that behind each and every one of these heroes, many of whom sitting in front of us, is a massive team of dedicated engineers, program managers, innovators, test pilots, welders, electricians, truck drivers, and families who are the true heroes of our space program. To lead this incredible team requires a leader who not only understands and believes in the mission, but also has the interdisciplinary skill sets to coordinate these cross-functional teams to achieve critical outcomes.

As we have unfortunately seen in recent days, NASA is struggling. And what is worse, it has been struggling for the past couple of decades. Since the tragedy of the *Columbia* disaster in 2003, which I remember like it was yesterday as I was preparing to enter the pool for a high school swim meet. NASA has been a struggling organization full of great people searching for revival.

For 10 years the United States of America was paying the Russian Government taxi fare to send our own astronauts into space. This would make JFK and Ronald Reagan turn in their graves. And in light of the recent Starliner Mission to the ISS that left astronauts stuck in space for 9 months, we are reminded that much work still remains.

President Trump, both, and Elon Musk, who is one of our greatest space entrepreneurs, both knew it was time for a change, and enter Jared Isaacman. Despite his childhood desire to be an Air Force pilot and an astronaut, Jared found out that he was smarter than most and started a disruptive software company in his garage as a teenager. That company grew to be a tremendous multi-billion dollar success, and that success fueled his ascension into the Hall of Fame as a record-setting jet pilot, an aggressive fighter pilot for our Air Force combat pilots, and most recently, the first civilian astronaut to ever conduct a spacewalk.

On top of all that, Jared and I share another passion, pediatric philanthropy. Jared has personally donated millions of dollars to improve health care for at-risk children all over America, a cause which brought us together.

NASA is at a point of great pride for a generation. It represents a moral obligation for us to continue to lead in the greatest frontier ever known, and it deserves strong leadership. Jared is an articulate leader, a great father and husband, and one of the smartest people in America. Jared understands not only how to manage complex, multi-billion dollar organizations, but also how to design and engineer critical systems. And to top it all off, he knows how to fly spaceships.

America has given us a mandate to push the boundaries of outer space, and NASA is in need of spiritual and organizational rejuvenation, and that will take fresh, bold leadership. Jared is the perfect man for the job, and I look forward to adding NASA Administrator to his already remarkable resume.

Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. I now recognize Mr. Isaacman for his opening statement.

**STATEMENT OF JARED ISAACMAN,  
NOMINEE TO BE ADMINISTRATOR,  
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**

Mr. ISAACMAN. Thank you, Senator Sheehy, for the very generous introduction. Thank you Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, distinguished Members of the Committee, I am honored and very grateful to be here before you today as President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

I have lived the American dream, and I owe this Nation a great debt. I would happily serve President Trump in any capacity, but to work alongside the people that have expanded the boundaries of exploration and brought humanity closer to the stars would be the privilege of a lifetime.

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge my crewmates, as you did earlier, Senator, along with my wife, Monica, and my two wonderful daughters that are sitting behind me, Mila and Liv.

I do recognize I am a newcomer, so I thought I would share a bit about my story, along with my understanding of the challenges and the opportunities that lie ahead. I am an entrepreneur, and my journey began when I took a risk and left school at age 16 to build a company in my parents' basement. Despite my unconventional start, I found success very early in life and led my company into a multi-billion dollar enterprise that employs thousands. I am a pilot with an aeronautics degree. Over the last 20 years, I have flown over 7,000 hours in jets and ex-military aircraft, setting world records, and performing in air shows.

My passion for aviation also led me to start another company, this time a defense aerospace business. As a company, we operated the world's largest private air force. Our job was to fly fighter jets as adversaries, executing enemy tactics, and training American warfighters. We managed hundreds of millions in defense contracts and saved taxpayers billions along the way.

I am also an astronaut. Alongside a talented team, I led two record-breaking missions to space. On my last mission, we tested a new spacesuit while performing a spacewalk and orbited farther away from Earth than any human has gone since the last time Americans walked on the Moon. Along the way, my two crewmates, Sarah Gillis and Anna Menon, became the women who have journeyed farthest from Earth ever.

I am an advocate for science. During these missions to space, my crew and I performed approximately 50 science and research experiments. I have also publicly supported the Chandra X-ray Observatory and offered to fund a mission to extend the life and capabilities of the Hubble Space Telescope.

I care about the people back at home and our collective future here on Earth. My space career did not burden the taxpayers. They were privately funded and aimed at inspiring and helping people all over the world. One example is the over \$250 million we raised to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and their critical work to ensure no child dies in the dawn of life. Alongside these efforts, I have personally donated hundreds of millions of dollars to charitable endeavors.

I share all this because I am not a typical nominee for this position. I have been relatively apolitical. I am not a scientist. I never worked at NASA. I do not think these are weaknesses. In fact, I believe President Trump found them to be strengths. And if confirmed, I will bring all my experience to the greatest adventure in human history, the quest to discover the secrets of the universe.

On that note, NASA is the most accomplished and respected space Agency in the world, but for all NASA's historic achievements, the Agency is not without challenges: Presidents have called for a return to the Moon and a path to Mars since 1989, and well over a hundred billion has been spent without the intended results. Most programs, new telescopes, rovers, X-planes, entire spaceships, are over budget and behind schedule. And this is discouraging because when people look up at the stars and wonder what is out there, they want those answers today and not decades down the road.

And I know it is not lost on members of this committee that we have geopolitical rivals moving at impressive speeds. It is impera-

tive for our national security, our pride, and all that we stand to gain in exploration that we never come in second place. If confirmed, and with the support and guidance of President Trump and Members of Congress, we will reinvigorate a mission-first culture at NASA with the following objectives.

First, American astronauts will lead the way in the ultimate high ground of space. As the President stated, we will prioritize sending American astronauts to Mars, and along the way we will inevitably have the capabilities to return to the Moon and determine the scientific, economic, and national security benefits for maintaining a presence on the lunar surface. We will focus our technology development efforts on the world's greatest engineering challenges, such as the practical application of nuclear propulsion, so we can truly unlock humankind's ability to explore among the stars.

Second, we will ignite a thriving space economy in low Earth orbit. By working alongside international partners and industry, we can unlock the true economic potential of space and deliver meaningful benefits to the American people, potentially even charting a course for NASA to become a financially self-sustaining Agency.

Number three, NASA will be a force multiplier for science. We will leverage NASA's scientific talent and capabilities to enable academic institutions and industry to increase the rate of world-changing discoveries. We will launch more telescopes, more probes, more rovers, and endeavor to better understand our planet and the universe beyond.

If confirmed, I will work alongside and recruit the most talented minds this Nation has to offer, and we will concentrate our resources toward achieving the near-impossible, the objectives that no other Agency, company, or institution is capable of accomplishing; we will do so knowing the risks and the ground-breaking opportunities that lie ahead, because some risks, like exploring the worlds beyond ours, are worth taking.

We will do this not just to expand our knowledge or strengthen our national security, but to improve all life here on Earth and inspire the next generation to reach even further. This is why America needs NASA, why the world needs NASA, because there is no more important investment than inspiring our children to build a better and more exciting future. And the best way NASA can do that is by delivering on our mission and ushering in a new golden age of science and discovery. And we will not fail.

Thank you.

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

PREPARED STATEMENT OF JARED ISAACMAN, NOMINEE TO BE ADMINISTRATOR,  
NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

Thank you Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the committee. I am honored and very grateful to be here before you today as President Donald Trump's nominee to lead the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. I have lived the American dream and I owe this Nation a great debt. I would happily serve President Trump in any capacity but to work alongside the people that have expanded the boundaries of exploration and brought humanity closer to the stars, would be the privilege of a lifetime.

Before I begin, I would like to acknowledge my family—my parents, Sandy & Don Isaacman, my wife Monica and my two wonderful daughters, Mila and Liv.

I do recognize, I am a newcomer so I thought I would share a bit of my story, along with my understanding of the challenges and opportunities ahead.

- I am an entrepreneur and my journey began when I took a risk and left school at age 16 to build a company in my parent's basement. Despite my unconventional start, I found success very early in life and led my company into a multi-billion-dollar enterprise employing thousands.
- I am a pilot with an aeronautics degree. Over the last 20 years, I've flown over seven thousand hours in jets and ex-military aircraft, setting world records and performing in airshows. My passion for aviation also led me to start another company—this time a defense aerospace business. As a company, we operated the world's largest private air force. Our job was to fly fighter jets as adversaries, executing enemy tactics and training American warfighters. We managed hundreds of millions in defense contracts and saved taxpayers billions along the way.
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- I am an advocate for science. During these missions to space, my crew & I performed approximately 50 science and research experiments. I have also publicly supported the Chandra x-Ray Observatory and offered to fund a mission to extend the life and capabilities of the Hubble space telescope.
- I care about the people back at home and our collective future here on Earth. My space career did not burden the taxpayers. They were privately funded and aimed at inspiring and helping people all over the world. One example is the over \$250 million we raised to support St. Jude Children's Research Hospital and their critical work to ensure no child dies in the dawn of life. Alongside these efforts, I have personally donated hundreds of millions to charitable endeavors.

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Second—We will ignite a thriving space economy in low Earth orbit.

By working alongside international partners and industry, we can unlock the true economic potential of space and deliver meaningful benefits to the American people—potentially charting a course for NASA to become a financially self-sustaining agency.

Third—NASA will be a force multiplier for science.

We will leverage NASA’s scientific talent and capabilities to enable academic institutions and industry to increase the rate of world-changing discoveries. We will launch more telescopes, more probes, more rovers and endeavor to better understand our planet and the universe beyond.

If confirmed, I will work alongside & recruit the most talented minds this Nation has to offer and we will concentrate our resources toward achieving the near-impossible—the objectives that no other agency, company or institution is capable of accomplishing. We will do so knowing the risks and ground-breaking opportunities that lie ahead—because some risks, like exploring the worlds beyond ours, are worth taking.

We will do this not just to expand our knowledge or strengthen our national security, but to improve all life on Earth and inspire the next generation to reach even further. This is why America needs NASA—why the world needs NASA—because there is no more important investment than inspiring our children to build a better, more exciting future. And the best way NASA can do that is by delivering on our mission and ushering in a new Golden Age of Science & Discovery—and we will not fail.

Thank You.

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#### A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Jared Taylor Isaacman.
2. Position to which nominated: Administrator of the National Aeronautics & Space Administration.
3. Date of Nomination: January 20, 2025.
4. Address (List current place of residence and office addresses):

Residence: Information not released to the public.  
Office: 3501 Corp Parkway, Center Valley, PA 18034.

5. Date and Place of Birth: Union, NJ.
6. Provide the name, position, and place of employment for your spouse (if married) or domestic partner, and the names and ages of your children (including step-children and children by a previous marriage).

Monica Isaacman, homemaker.

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.

Embry Riddle Aeronautical University—Bachelor in Professional Aeronautics (2011) (February 2010–November 2011).

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.

- Shift4 Payments, Founder and CEO (June 2000 to present)
- Draken International, Co-founder and CEO (November 2011–April 2020)
- Denmar, Consultant (October 2020 to present)

9. Attach a copy of your résumé.  
See attachment.

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.

Honorary Commander—US Air Force Academy

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.

- Shift4 Payments, Inc.—Chairman of the Board, CEO, and Director, 6/2020 to present

- Shift4 Payments, LLC (fka Harbortouch Payments, LLC and Lighthouse Network, LLC)—Chief Executive Officer, 3/2014 to present
- Shift4 Subsidiaries
  - C.C. Productions, LLC—President and CEO, 12/2022 to present
  - CFC & FP Enterprises, LLC—President and CEO, 12/2022 to present
  - Credorax (USA) LLC—Authorized Person to sign entity documents for filing, checks, notes in connection with bank accounts, facilities or services per Operating Agreement, 12/2023 to present
  - Pinnacle Hospitality Systems, LLC—President and CEO, 7/2022 to present
  - POSITOUCH, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 10/2017 to present
  - POSTEC, LLC—Chief Executive Officer 12/2021 to present
  - Revel Systems, Inc.—President and sole Director, 6/2024 to present
  - SIDFT4 CORPORATION—President and CEO and sole Director, 11/2017 to present
  - Shift4 Payments Finance Sub, Inc.—President and Director, 10/2020 to present
  - Shift4Shop, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 11/2020 to present
  - The Giving Block Holdings, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 2/2022 to present
  - Micros Retail Systems, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 10/2020 to present
  - Venuenext, Inc—President, 4/21 to present
  - Shift4 Shop, LLC (formerly 3dcart, LLC)—Chief Executive Officer, 11/2020 to present
  - S4-ML Holdings, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 8/2019 to present
  - MSI Merchant Services Holdings, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 3/2014–12/2021
  - Restaurant Manager, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 8/2017–12/2021
  - Positouch, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 10/2017–12/2021
  - Future POS, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 10/2017–12/2021
  - Harbortouch Financial, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 1/2011–12/2021
- Draken International, LLC—Chief Executive Officer, 11/2011–4/2020; Director/Manager, 11/2011–10/2020
- 26 North Aviation, Inc.—Director, 1/2007 to present
- Rook Holdings, Inc—Director, President, Treasurer, Secretary, 3/2014 to present
- Rook Aviation Holdings, LLC—Member and President, 1/2019 to present
- Rook Investments, LLC—Member and President, 7/2019 to present
- Black Diamond Jet HoldCo, Inc—President, CEO, and Director, 3/2019 to present
- Black Diamond Jet Holdings, LLC—President, CEO, and Manager, 12/2019 to present
- JDI Holdings LLC—Member and President, 12/2005 to present
- Xenomorph, LLC (Dissolved)—Managing Member, 2/2021–2/2023
- Bone Horse Marine, LLC—Managing Member, 7/2021 to present
- Bone Horse, LLC—Managing Member, 4/2019–12/2024
- Bone Horse Hangars, LLC—Manager and Member, 7/2021 to present
- RookX, LLC—Managing Member, 1/2021 to present
- Rook Public Strategies, LLC—Managing Member, 7/2021–12/2024
- PolarisX, LLC—Managing Member, 12/2022–12/2024
- Rook SPV I, LLC—President, Secretary, Treasurer, 3/2021 to present
- Rook SPV II, LLC—President, Secretary, Treasurer, 8/2021 to present
- Rook SPV III, LLC—President, Secretary, Treasurer, 12/2022 to present
- Rook SPV IV, LLC—President, Secretary, Treasurer, 3/2023 to present
- Rook Space Investments, LLC—President, Treasurer, Secretary, 2/2021 to present

12. List all memberships 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 (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.

- Business Executives for National Security
- Association of Space Explorers
- Experimental Aircraft Association
- Aircraft Owners Pilot Association
- International Council of Air Shows
- CNBC CEO Council

These organizations do not restrict membership on the basis 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.

See attachment.

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

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Honorary Doctorate
- Foreign Policy Research Institute, Ben Franklin Award
- United States Air Force Academy, Honorary Commander
- FAA, Commercial Astronaut Wings
- National Business Aviation Association, Meritorious Service to Aviation Award
- Ernst & Young, EY Entrepreneur of the Year
- National Space Society, NSS Space Pioneer Award for Entrepreneurship
- UP Partners, UP Inspiration Award
- Living Legends of Aviation, Dr. Buzz Aldrin Space Advancement Award; Eren Ozmen Entrepreneur of the Year Award; Induction to Living Legends of Aviation
- Space Force Association, Advancing Human Presence in the Space Domain Award
- EarthLight Foundation, Space Cowboy Award
- Global Lithuanian Leaders, The Laureate of Global Lithuanian Award 2021
- Space Camp, Hall of Fame
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Eagle of Excellence Award
- AOPA Hoover Trophy
- Everyday Astronaut Astro Awards, Most Inspiring, Most Innovative and Important Mission of 2024 Award
- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital, Michael F. Tamer Award
- American Astronautical Society, Neil Armstrong Space Flight Achievement Award
- Aim Higher Gala, Inspiration Award
- Commercial Spaceflight Federation. Commercial Space Business & Finance Award
- Vladimir Komarov Diploma, FAI Astronautic Records Commission
- NAA/FAI, Numerous NAA/FAI World Records in Aviation and Space
- Electronic Transactions Association, 40 Under 40
- Inc 500, 30 Under 30
- Air Force Association, John R. Alison Award

- Governor Rick Scott, FL, Draken International recognized for local job growth

17. List all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications 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.

Not applicable.

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.

- Speech, Commencement Address at Embry-Riddle's Fall 2024 Undergraduate Commencement Ceremony, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, December 12, 2024. See the university's press release here, [http://news.erau.edu/headlines/jared-isaacman-inspires-embly-riddle-grads-to-pursue-moonshots#:~:text=%E2%80%99Cl%27s%20you%20who%20wil1%20make,Center%20in%20Daytona%20Beach%2C%20Florida.](http://news.erau.edu/headlines/jared-isaacman-inspires-embly-riddle-grads-to-pursue-moonshots#:~:text=%E2%80%99Cl%27s%20you%20who%20wil1%20make,Center%20in%20Daytona%20Beach%2C%20Florida.,), and a video of the address here, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BjyyGjeYrKO>.
- Fireside Chat, Space Force Power Conference, United States Space Force, December 10, 2024. A recording of the event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CdaqX3AMxy8>
- Panelist, Astronaut Reunion, Association of Space Explorers, December 5, 2024.
- Fireside Chat, Polaris Dawn Event, UC Davis for Spaceflight Research, November 22, 2024.
- Fireside Chat, Beyond Earth Symposium, Beyond Earth Institute, November 13, 2024. A recording of the event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0pZ1H4WjnVU>
- Fireside Chat, Foreign Policy Research Institute's 18th Annual Benjamin Franklin Award for Public Service, Foreign Policy Research Institute, November 13, 2024.
- Panelist, Planetary Congress, Association of Space Explorers, October 3, 2024.
- Panelist, Up.Summit, UP.Partners, September 30, 2024.
- Fireside Chat, Polaris Dawn Mission Briefing, Polaris Dawn, August 19, 2024. A recording of the event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rGtzDmwfkCY>.
- Fireside Chat, X Takeover, Tesla Owners of Silicon Valley, July, 28, 2024. A recording of the event is available here: <https://www.facebook.com/tesla/siliconvalley/videos/full-interview-with-jared-isaacman-shares-the-ground-breaking-work-with-polaris-/8703988886355087/>.
- Fireside Chat, Commercial Spaceflight Transportation Conference Washington, DC, Commercial Space Federation, February, 21, 2024.
- Fireside Chat, ICR Conference, ICR, January 8, 2024.
- Fireside Chat, Space Force Power Conference, United States Space Force, December 13, 2023.
- Fireside Chat, LiveWIRED, WIRED, November 5, 2023. A recording of the event is available here: <http://www.wired.com/video/watch/lets-die-on-mars>
- Fireside Chat, Space Cowboy Ball, EarthLight Foundation, November 18, 2023.
- Fireside Chat, NBAA Annual Conference, NBAA, October 17, 2023.
- Panelist, EAA Aviation Museum Space Day Event, October 7, 2023.
- Panelist, Disrupt Conference, TechCrunch, September 19, 2023.
- Fireside Chat, International Space Development Conference, National Space Society, May 25, 2023.
- Fireside Chat, National Character and Leadership Symposium (NCLS), United States Air Force Academy, February 23, 2023.
- Fireside Chat, SpaceCom 2023—Accelerating the Global Business of Space, SpaceCom, February 23, 2023.
- Fireside Chat, Space Force Culture Coalition, United States Space Force, February 21, 2023.
- Fireside Chat, BENS Virtual Discussion on Polaris Dawn with NY Metro Member Jared Isaacman, BENS, February 21, 2023.
- Acceptance Speech, Living Legends of Aviation, Kitty Hawk Air Academy, January 20, 2023.

- Panelists, UP.Summit, UP.Partners, June 7, 2022.
- Fireside Chat, LOGIN '22, LOGIN, June 3, 2022.
- Speech, Commencement Address at Embry-Riddle's 2022 Spring Commencement, Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, May 14, 2022.
- Presenter, Easterseals Advocacy Awards, Easterseals April 12, 2022. A recording of the event is available here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eHpBgLMJU7s>.
- Fireside Chat, Agilysys User Conference, Agilysys, March 1, 2022.
- Acceptance Speech, Living Legends of Aviation, Kitty Hawk Air Academy, January 21, 2022.
- Fireside Chat, Annual CNBC Technology Executive Council Summit, CNBC, November 17, 2021.
- Panelist, ASCEND, The American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, November, 15, 2021. A recording of the event is available here: <https://youtube/VjHzpOqu5iU>

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and podcasts 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.

See attached.

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.

- X/Twitter: @rookisaacman, <https://x.com/rookisaacman>
- Instagram: rookisaacman, <https://www.instagram.com/rookisaacman/>
- Shift4 personnel previously created a LinkedIn account for me, but I never used it, and it has been deleted.

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, committee, and subject matter of each testimony.

None.

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency/commission/corporation 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 believe many aspects of my background make me qualified to serve as NASA Administrator, and it would be an immense honor to do so. My education, experience as a pilot, time as a commercial astronaut, and work as an entrepreneur together reflect my life-long passions of aviation and spaceflight. Throughout my various endeavors, I have had the opportunity to work with the government as a partner in the private sector. This has provided me with unique insights into how we can improve and innovate NASA's operations. I am committed to NASA's quest to explore space, innovate for humanity, and inspire our Nation through discovery.

As a student, I attended the Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University where I graduated with a bachelor's degree in professional aeronautics.

As a pilot, I have more than 7,700 hours of jet pilot experience and the highest FAA ratings, which include my Airline Transport Pilot certificate with experimental type ratings to operate ex-military aircraft.

As a commercial astronaut, I have spent the last four years helping plan, develop, train, and execute two commercial space missions through the Polaris Program. My crew and I flew farther into space than any other human has since Apollo 17—more than 50 years ago. Aspects of our missions reflect the exciting future of space, such as the testing of new spacesuits during our spacewalk and the use of laser communications to send a message to the world. These efforts renewed excitement about what the future holds for America as a spacefaring Nation, but we also remained dedicated to addressing the hardships and challenges of the world we live in today. In the course of the Polaris missions, we raised over \$250 million for St. Jude Children's Research hospital, of which I have contributed more than \$125 million directly. My experience as an astronaut and leader for two missions has also given

me a profound understanding of the coordination required between NASA, commercial partners, other government agencies, and outside collaborators to achieve mission success.

As an entrepreneur, I have also created a career in business that is directly related to managing a large agency and advancing American aeronautical interests and innovation. I co-founded the world's largest private air force, Draken International, to train pilots for the United States Armed Forces and its allies. This defense aerospace business, involving high performance military aircraft, saved taxpayers hundreds of millions and enhanced the training of our military warfighters. I am also the founder and CEO of Shift4 Payments, an innovative payment processor company, which I started in my parents basement when I was 16 years old. Throughout my long business career, I have run my companies efficiently, responsibly, and with thousands of employees.

I hope to have the opportunity to advance the President's goal for America to lead in space, science, technology, and exploration as NASA Administrator.

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

It is imperative that the Administrator of NASA manages the agency responsibly and efficiently to ensure its organizational resources are dedicated to consistently moving the ball forward and advancing our national interests.

As the founder and CEO of two large companies, I am responsible for overseeing large budgets and have navigated complex logistics matters on a daily basis. As the founder and CEO of an aerospace defense contractor under government oversight, and a public company listed on the New York Stock Exchange, I also understand the importance of leading large organizations responsibly with proper governance and accounting controls.

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

NASA is the most respected and accomplished space agency in the world. The NASA logo inspires Americans and people the world over to dream of what the future may hold. However, the agency has faced significant challenges over the years that have impeded the mission.

1. NASA has been unable to return to the Moon or have an achievable path to Mars, despite plans to do so as far back as President George H.W. Bush's Administration in 1989.
2. The pace of world changing discoveries has slowed with flagship missions consistently billions over budget and behind schedule.
3. The space economy has yet to be revealed. For over 60 years, the space economy has had the same customers (governments) looking for the same capabilities (communications and observation).

I believe the challenges stem from:

- A distracting number of priorities that are not fully aligned with the NASA mission.
- An organizational structure and policies that fuel bureaucracy and throttle progress.
- A culture that needs to be reinvigorated to make better use of capable commercial industry and to win against geopolitical rivals that are quickly threatening the ever expanding "high ground". If we do not lead, we follow, and if we follow, we may never catch-up.

I am committed to working tirelessly alongside some of the brightest minds in the Nation to solve the problems and return NASA's focus to executing on the mission.

#### 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.

My employment agreements and arrangements are described on my Form 278e Public Financial Disclosure Report, which I am working on with the Office of Government Ethics (OGE) and NASA ethics officials. That form will disclose the following agreements and arrangements:

- 1) A corporation I own has a Tax Receivable Agreement (TRA) with Shift4 Payments, Inc. Under the TRA, Shift4 Payments, Inc. agrees to make payments to the historic equity owners in an amount equal to a percentage of the benefit

the corporation derives from certain specific tax attributes, if, as and when realized Prior to the IPO of Shift4 in 2020, the company operated as a partnership for U.S. Tax purposes. Upon the IPO, an umbrella partnership—C-Corporation structure was established. The operating partnership (Shift4 Payments, LLC) will be modified by reclassifying my interests as an original owner into a new class of interest that is exchangeable for Shift4 common stock (Class A). The TRA requires Shift4 to share tax savings with the original partners.

- 2) Pursuant to my employment agreement with Shift4 Payments, LLC, for 36 months after resignation, I will be eligible for health insurance benefits and other reimbursed expenses for fees in connection with former employment/ownership. I do not anticipate participating in or accepting such benefits.
- 3) In February 2025, I anticipate receiving an annual RSU award from Shift4 Payments, Inc. for the 2024 calendar year. RSU grant levels for the Chief Executive Officer are decided in conjunction with the Company's year-end compensation decisions based on individual and Company performance from the prior fiscal year.

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.

An entity I own holds agreements with Space Exploration Technologies Corp. (SpaceX). These include agreements related to two future space flight missions in the Polaris Program. There are three space flight service agreements related to different missions in the Polaris Program.

I am currently working with OGE and NASA ethics officials on addressing these contracts from an ethics and conflicts perspective. I am committed to working with OGE to identify an appropriate way to avoid conflicts of interest related to these contracts and work toward a resolution that, if necessary, will be fully described in my Ethics Agreement letter.

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.

I have equity interest in Shift4 Payments, Inc., a payments company that predominantly serves restaurants, hotels, sports stadiums and theme parks. Shift4 processes some of the payments for SpaceX Starlink Internet service, but this represents less than 1/2 of a percent of the company's revenue. I intend to resign from my positions and will continue to work with OGE and NASA ethics officials on how to handle my interest in Shift4.

I own ex-military aircraft that are occasionally used in a charter or lease arrangement by U.S. Government test pilot schools and for R&D testing.

My separate involvement in contracts with SpaceX is described in the previous question.

In all of these matters, I am working with OGE and NASA ethics officials to identify and resolve conflicts in the appropriate time frame. We are working toward an Ethics Agreement letter that will contain my commitments to resolve existing conflicts. As Administrator, I would be committed to full transparency on these issues and I would work closely with the agency's ethics staff and OGE to resolve any potential conflicts that should arise during my tenure.

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.

My involvement in contracts with SpaceX is described in the previous questions. As noted above, I am working with OGE and NASA ethics officials to identify and resolve conflicts in the appropriate time frame. As Administrator, I would be committed to full transparency on these issues and I would work closely with the agency's ethics staff and OGE to resolve any potential conflicts that should arise during my tenure.

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. 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? No.

If yes:

- a. Provide the name of the 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.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or foreign government entity, other than for a minor traffic offense? If so, please explain.

Yes, in February 2010, when returning from a trip to watch the Olympics in Vancouver, I was detained by U.S. Customs and Border Protection on a warrant related to a charge for “drawing and passing checks without sufficient funds,” based on a dispute with the Palms Casino Resort in Las Vegas over a travel reimbursement that the resort promised and subsequently failed to honor. The dispute arose the month prior, and I was under the impression the matter was resolved. I was not aware that law enforcement was involved in the matter. As a result, I was very surprised when CBP took action. However, the matter was resolved in less than 24 hours and the charges were dismissed.

I did then and still now disagree with the other party’s handling of the matter. I considered civil action against the resort, but opted against it to avoid any further headache.

Following this incident, the Nevada district court sealed all records associated with this incident, stating, “All proceedings recounted in the sealed records are deemed never to have occurred.” Although it remains sealed, in the interest of full transparency, I have disclosed it here for the Committee’s awareness.

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.

Shift4, the company of which I am currently CEO, and its predecessors and subsidiaries have collectively been in business for over 25 years. The company, which is publicly traded on the NYSE, is infrequently party to lawsuits filed by and against the company. Please see attached for PACER listings of litigation involving Shift4, as well as its predecessors Harbortouch Payments, LLC, and United Bank Card, Inc. Also attached are PACER listings of litigation involving Draken International, the company which I co-founded and for which was previously CEO, but with which I am no longer affiliated. Also attached is a PACER listing of litigation involving me individually.

To the extent the Committee would like additional information on matters listed in the PACER attachments, such as a summary of litigation involving Shift4 over a certain time period, please do not hesitate to ask.

With respect to agency proceedings, Shift4 recently settled a matter with the SEC involving allegations that the company failed to disclose on its annual 10-K forms and/or its proxy statements for FY 2020 through FY 2022 related person transactions for a total of three individuals. This settlement began with outreach from the SEC requesting that Shift4 voluntarily provide documents and information regarding related persons transactions involving immediate family members of Shift4’s officers and directors. Shift4 cooperated with the inquiry, in the course of which we learned that three individuals’ names and compensations were inadvertently left off of SEC-required reports and disclosures. Those disclosures were made as of April of last year.

Shift4 offered to pay \$750,000 to settle the claim. For reference, \$750,000 is about 0.03 percent of Shift4’s annual revenue for 2023. The settlement order, which states, “In determining to accept the Offer, the [SEC] considered remedial acts promptly undertaken by [Shift4], including making disclosures and improvements to policies and procedures concerning related person transactions, as well as cooperation afforded the Commission staff,” is available on the SEC’s website here: <https://www.sec.gov/files/litigation/adrnin/2025/34-102146.pdf>. SEC Order ¶ 11.

4. Have you ever been convicted (including pleas of guilty or *no/o 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 assault, 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.

I am a devoted philanthropist and have demonstrated a large financial commitment to various causes throughout my life. Below are details regarding the contributions of \$50,000 or greater I have donated to 501(c)(3) organizations in my personal capacity:

- St. Jude Children's Research Hospital (2021, 2022, 2023): \$123,351,928
- Renaissance Charitable Foundation, Inc. (2022, 2023, 2024): \$13,150,247
- U.S. Space & Rocket Center Education Foundation (2022, 2023, 2024): \$11,352,879
- Naval Aviation Museum Foundation, Inc. (2021): \$5,533,456
- St. Luke's Health Network, Inc. (2023, 2024): \$4,776,908
- Lehigh Valley Zoo (2024): \$1,000,000
- Edward Charles Foundation (2021, 2022): \$650,000
- Davinci Science Center (2022): \$571,467
- Baylor College of Medicine (2022): \$516,181
- House of Hope Foundation for Kids with Cancer (2023): \$500,000
- Space Force Historical Foundation (2024): \$500,000
- California Institute of Technology (2025): \$500,000
- Global Citizen (3-Year Pledge beginning in 2023) (2023, 2024): \$500,000
- Kiddie Hawk (5-Year Pledge beginning in 2023) (2023, 2024): \$200,000
- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (2023): \$150,000
- Los Angeles Dodgers Foundation (2024): \$126,683
- Ukraine House DC Foundation (2022): \$100,000
- Business Executives for National Security (2023): \$80,000
- El Sistema USA (2023): \$75,000
- The Mars Generation (2021): \$50,000
- Earthlight Foundation (2023): \$50,000

#### D. RELATIONSHIP WITH COMMITTEE

1. Will you ensure that your department/agency/commission/corporation complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency/commission/corporation 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/commission/corporation 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.

## JARED ISAACMAN

Jared is an entrepreneur, philanthropist, and American patriot who has had transformative impact on the financial technology, aerospace & defense, and the commercial space exploration industries. He is a passionate champion of American ingenuity and private-sector solutions to global challenges.

### EXPERIENCE

- Founder and CEO of Shift4 (NYSE: FOUR) 1999-present; Basement startup at 16 years old, has become global financial technology leader
- Founder and CEO of Draken International 2011-2020; Military aerospace contractor that provides cost effective tactical training to DoD customers
- SpaceX Astronaut 2020-present: Commander of Inspiration4, the world's first all civilian mission to orbit in 2021
- Commander of Polaris Dawn, leading the farthest mission into space since last Apollo mission and performed the first commercial spacewalk in 2024

### PHILANTHROPY

- Donated \$125M to St. Jude Children's Research Hospital
- Donated \$10M to U.S. Space and Rocket Center - Space Camp
- Donated \$5M to National Naval Aviation Museum
- Donated \$5M to St. Luke's Pediatric Emergency Room
- The Giving Pledge signatory

### IDEOLOGY

- Advocate for efficient government and reduced waste (DOGE)
- Partner for strong military and national security
- Champion of free enterprise and innovation
- Proponent of American exceptionalism and leadership

### EDUCATION & ACCOLADES

- Bachelor of Science and Honorary Doctorate from ERAU
- Honorary US Air Force Academy Commander
- Foreign Policy Research Inst.'s 2024 Ben Franklin Award
- Record setting pilot with over 7,800 hours in jet aircraft
- Active TS security clearance (adjudicated 2021)
- Husband and proud father of two



## JARED ISAACMAN—PART A QUESTION 15

### POLITICAL CONTRIBUTIONS 2015–PRESENT

(through 2/3/2025)

| Jared Isaacman (Federal)                              | Date       | Amount         | Notes   |
|---|------------|----------------|---|
| TRUMP VANCE INAUGURAL COMMITTEE, INC.                 | 11/27/2024 | \$2,000,000.00 |   |
| WHITESIDES VICTORY FUND (CALIFORNIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY) | 10/29/2024 | \$5,000.00     | JFC contribution: allocated by JFC to California Democratic Party (see below)   |
| DSCC  | 10/29/2024 | \$5,000.00     |   |
| MONTANANS FOR TESTER                                  | 10/23/2024 | \$41,300.00    |   |
| MICHIGAN DEMOCRATIC STATE CENTRAL COMMITTEE           | 10/1/2024  | \$3,300.00     |   |
| MITTEN PAC  | 8/1/2024   | \$10,000.00    |   |
| ELISSA SLOTKIN FOR MICHIGAN                           | 7/29/2024  | \$5,000.00     |   |
| ELISSA SLOTKIN FOR MICHIGAN                           | 7/29/2024  | \$3,300.00     |   |
| CASEY KEYSTONE VICTORY FUND                           | 7/17/2024  | \$15,400.00    | JFC contribution: allocated by JFC to Pennsylvania Democratic Party, Bob Casey for Senate, Inc., and Keystone America PAC (see below) |
| (KEYSTONE AMERICA PAC)                                | 7/22/2024  | \$2,100.00     |   |
| (BOB CASEY FOR SENATE INC)                            | 7/22/2024  | \$3,300.00     |   |
| (PENNSYLVANIA DEMOCRATIC PARTY)                       | 7/22/2024  | \$10,000.00    |   |
| GEORGE WHITESIDES FOR CONGRESS                        | 2/20/2023  | \$3,300.00     |   |
| GEORGE WHITESIDES FOR CONGRESS                        | 2/20/2023  | \$3,300.00     |   |
| MARK KELLY FOR SENATE                                 | 10/1/2022  | \$2,900.00     | In-Kind Contribution—Fundraising Event Catering   |
| DSCC  | 7/11/2022  | \$26,500.00    | Recount Account   |
| DSCC  | 7/11/2022  | \$23,500.00    |   |
| MONTANANS FOR TESTER                                  | 3/31/2022  | \$2,900.00     |   |
| BOB CASEY FOR SENATE INC                              | 3/30/2022  | \$2,900.00     |   |
| SHAHEEN FOR SENATE                                    | 3/30/2022  | \$2,900.00     |   |
| DSCC  | 3/29/2022  | \$10,000.00    |   |







































JARED ISAACMAN—PART C QUESTION 3—PACER—DRAKEN

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|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| DRAKEN INTERNATIONAL, INC. (pla) | <a href="#">1:2014cv01005</a> | DRAKEN INTERNATIONAL, INC. v. USA | U.S. Court of Federal Claims |

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JARED ISAACMAN—PART C QUESTION 3—PACER—UNITED BANK CARD

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| Party Name                              | Case Number                   | Case Title   | Court                                |
|---|-------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| United Bank Card (cr)                   | <a href="#">0:2005bk90029</a> | Daniel L. Dailey   | Florida Southern Bankruptcy Court    |
| United Bank Card (pla)                  | <a href="#">0:2006ap01645</a> | United Bank Card and Daniel L. Dailey                            | Florida Southern Bankruptcy Court    |
| United Bank Card (e)                    | <a href="#">0:2008cv60704</a> | Dailey v. United Bank Card                                       | Florida Southern District Court      |
| UNITED BANK CARD (dft)                  | <a href="#">3:2013cv00058</a> | ROMA PIZZERIA v. HARBORTOUCH                                     | New Jersey District Court            |
| United Bank Card Inc (dft)              | <a href="#">2:2011cv01753</a> | Hartman et al v. United Bank Card Inc. et al                     | Washington Western District Court    |
| United Bank Card of America, Inc. (dft) | <a href="#">4:2010cv01993</a> | Rainbow Business Solutions et al v. Merchant Services, Inc et al | California Northern District Court   |
| UNITED BANK CARD OF LAS VEGAS (dft)     | <a href="#">3:2006cv05772</a> | UNITED BANK CARD, INC. v. RIVERA                                 | New Jersey District Court            |
| United Bank Card West (db)              | <a href="#">3:2009bk04446</a> | Michael Anthony Guminski and Melissa Parker Orlen                | California Southern Bankruptcy Court |
| United Bank Card, Inc (dft)             | <a href="#">3:2010cv00428</a> | Unique Shopping Network, LLC v. United Bank Card, Inc            | Tennessee Eastern District Court     |
| United Bank Card, Inc. (dft)            | <a href="#">2:2010cv02873</a> | Mollica v. United Bank Card, Inc. et al                          | Alabama Northern District Court      |
| United Bank Card, Inc. (dft)            | <a href="#">3:2009cv01106</a> | Guenther v. Crosscheck, Inc. et al                               | California Northern District Court   |
| United Bank Card, Inc. (dft)            | <a href="#">3:2019cv00636</a> | Abante Rooter and Plumbing, Inc. v. United Bank Card, Inc.       | California Northern District Court   |
| United Bank Card, Inc. (pla)            | <a href="#">0:2006cv60057</a> | United Bank Card v. Powermedica, Inc., et al                     | Florida Southern District Court      |
| United Bank Card, Inc. (dft)            | <a href="#">0:2011cv60877</a> | Lackova v. Experian Information Solutions, Inc. et al            | Florida Southern District Court      |

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|------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| United Bank Card, Inc. (dft) | <a href="#">0:2011cv62540</a> | Lady Lucille Cruises v. United Bank Card, Inc.       | Florida Southern District Court     |
| United Bank Card, Inc. (dft) | <a href="#">8:2012cv00089</a> | Corona v. First National Bank of Omaha, et al        | Nebraska District Court             |
| UNITED BANK CARD, INC. (cd)  | <a href="#">3:2006cv05772</a> | UNITED BANK CARD, INC. v. RIVERA                     | New Jersey District Court           |
| UNITED BANK CARD, INC. (pla) | <a href="#">3:2006cv05772</a> | UNITED BANK CARD, INC. v. RIVERA                     | New Jersey District Court           |
| UNITED BANK CARD, INC. (pla) | <a href="#">3:2010cv02232</a> | UNITED BANK CARD, INC. v. OPTIMAL GROUP, INC. et al  | New Jersey District Court           |
| UNITED BANK CARD, INC. (pla) | <a href="#">3:2014cv06049</a> | HARBORTOUCH PAYMENTS, LLC v. DENALI STATE BANK et al | New Jersey District Court           |
| UNITED BANK CARD, INC. (dft) | <a href="#">3:2023cv04313</a> | GANNON v. UNITED BANK CARD, INC. et al               | New Jersey District Court           |
| UNITED BANK CARD, INC. (dft) | <a href="#">5:2016cv03622</a> | BROOKFIELD EQUINOX LLC v. UNITED BANK CARD, INC.     | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court |
| United Bank Card, Inc. (cr)  | <a href="#">2:2007bk24071</a> | Overstock Spas, LLC                                  | Utah Bankruptcy Court               |

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|-----------------------------|----------------------------------|--|--------------------------------------|
| Shift4 Payments LLC (dft)   | <a href="#">8:2022cv00908</a>    | Smelson v. Shift4 Payments LLC                             | Maryland District Court              |
| Shift4 Payments LLC (pall)  | <a href="#">1:2021cv01607</a>    | Shift4 Payments LLC v. Westamerica Bank                    | New York Southern District Court     |
| SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, INC. (dft) | <a href="#">5:2023cv03206</a>    | O'MEARA v. SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, INC. et al                     | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court  |
| SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, INC. (dft) | <a href="#">5:2023cv03969</a>    | BAER v. SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, INC. et al                        | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court  |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC        | <a href="#">0:2020civil01548</a> | Upserve, Inc. v. Hoffman                                   | U.S. Court Of Appeals, First Circuit |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (dft)  | <a href="#">3:2018cv00786</a>    | Payment Logistics Limited v. Lighthouse Network, LLC et al | California Southern District Court   |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (dft)  | <a href="#">1:2019cv01857</a>    | OHVA, Inc. v. Shift4 Payments, LLC                         | Delaware District Court              |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (dft)  | <a href="#">3:2024cv00633</a>    | KMF Services, LLC et al v. Shift4 Payments, LLC et al      | Florida Middle District Court        |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (dft)  | <a href="#">0:2022cv61698</a>    | Trucations, LLC v. Shift4 Payments, LLC et al              | Florida Southern District Court      |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (cr)   | <a href="#">2:2021bk40083</a>    | Loves Furniture Inc.                                       | Michigan Eastern Bankruptcy Court    |
| SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, LLC (dft)  | <a href="#">3:2023cv04313</a>    | GANNON v. UNITED BANK CARD, INC. et al                     | New Jersey District Court            |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (pla)  | <a href="#">2:2023cv02074</a>    | Shift4 Payments, LLC v. Valsoft Corp. Inc.                 | Nevada District Court                |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (pla)  | <a href="#">1:2021cv01609</a>    | Shift4 Payments, LLC v. Westamerica Bank                   | New York Southern District Court     |
| SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, LLC (pla)  | <a href="#">5:2019cv00330</a>    | SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, LLC v. SMITH et al                        | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court  |

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|----------------------------|-------------------------------|---|-------------------------------------|
| SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, LLC (cd)  | <a href="#">5:2021cv02684</a> | SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, LLC et al v. Shift Processing, LLC | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court |
| SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, LLC (pla) | <a href="#">5:2021cv02684</a> | SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, LLC et al v. Shift Processing, LLC | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (dft) | <a href="#">1:2019cv00593</a> | Upserve, Inc. v. Hoffman                            | Rhode Island District Court         |
| Shift4 Payments, LLC (dft) | <a href="#">1:2022cv01453</a> | Bronston v. Shift4 Payments, LLC et al              | Virginia Eastern District Court     |

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| Party Name                       | Case Number                   | Case Title   | Court                                 |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|
| Harbortouch (dft)                | <a href="#">3:2019cv00636</a> | Abante Rooter and Plumbing, Inc. v. United Bank Card, Inc. | California Northern District Court    |
| Harbortouch (dft)                | <a href="#">4:2013cv00567</a> | Suzanne Degnen, D.M.D., P.C. v. United Bankcard, Inc.,     | Missouri Eastern District Court       |
| Harbortouch (dft)                | <a href="#">8:2012cv00089</a> | Corona v. First National Bank of Omaha, et al              | Nebraska District Court               |
| HARBORTOUCH (dft)                | <a href="#">3:2013cv00058</a> | ROMA PIZZERIA v. HARBORTOUCH                               | New Jersey District Court             |
| HARBORTOUCH (dft)                | <a href="#">5:2016cv03622</a> | BROOKFIELD EQUINOX LLC v. UNITED BANK CARD, INC.           | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court   |
| HarborTouch (dft)                | <a href="#">2:2019ap02202</a> | Vinsick Foods, Inc. and ML Factors Funding, LLC            | Pennsylvania Western Bankruptcy Court |
| HarborTouch (dft)                | <a href="#">2:2019ap02203</a> | Vinsick Foods, Inc. and ML Factors Funding, LLC            | Pennsylvania Western Bankruptcy Court |
| Harbortouch (dft)                | <a href="#">1:2018cv00748</a> | The Crosstown Shipping & Supply Co. et al v. Harbortouch   | Virginia Eastern District Court       |
| Harbortouch Financial (dft)      | <a href="#">8:2014ap00219</a> | Bauman and 2408 W Kennedy LLC                              | Florida Middle Bankruptcy Court       |
| HARBORTOUCH FINANCIAL, LLC (dft) | <a href="#">3:2023cv04313</a> | GANNON v. UNITED BANK CARD, INC. et al                     | New Jersey District Court             |
| Harbortouch Payments (dft)       | <a href="#">3:2024cv00633</a> | KMF Services, LLC et al v. Shift4 Payments, LLC et al      | Florida Middle District Court         |
| Harbortouch Payments LLC (dft)   | <a href="#">2:2015cv02034</a> | Johnson et al v. Harbortouch Payments LLC                  | South Carolina District Court         |
| Harbortouch Payments, LLC (dft)  | <a href="#">4:2016cv00035</a> | Denali State Bank v. Harbortouch Payments, LLC             | Alaska District Court                 |

<https://pca.uscourts.gov/pca/pages/search/results/parties.js?fid=ab398025868648994143337c05bcd2c> 53 1/2

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| Party Name                      | Case Number                   | Case Title   | Court                             |
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| Harbortouch Payments, LLC (dft) | <a href="#">2:2017cv03842</a> | Terry Fabricant v. Harbortouch Payments, LLC         | California Central District Court |
| Harbortouch Payments, LLC (dft) | <a href="#">1:2015an80134</a> | Four Grahams, Inc. and Harbortouch Payments, LLC     | Michigan Western Bankruptcy Court |
| HARBORTOUCH PAYMENTS, LLC (pla) | <a href="#">3:2014cv06049</a> | HARBORTOUCH PAYMENTS, LLC v. DENALI STATE BANK et al | New Jersey District Court         |
| HARBORTOUCH PAYMENTS, LLC (dft) | <a href="#">3:2015cv05200</a> | JOHNSON et al v. HARBORTOUCH PAYMENTS LLC            | New Jersey District Court         |

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**Client Code**  
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## JARED ISAACMAN—PART C QUESTION 3—PACER—ISAACMAN, JARED

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**Search Criteria:** Party Search; Last Name: [Isaacman]; First Name: [Jared]  
**Result Count:** 2 (1 page)  
**Current Page:** 1

| Party Name            | Case Number   | Case Title                             | Court                               |
|-----------------------|---------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| ISAACMAN, JARED (dft) | 5:2023cv03206 | O'MEARA v. SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, INC. et al | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court |
| ISAACMAN, JARED (dft) | 5:2023cv03969 | BAER v. SHIFT4 PAYMENTS, INC. et al    | Pennsylvania Eastern District Court |

PACER Service Center 02/04/2025 06:43:50  
**User** jfrankel2023  
**Client Code**  
**Description** All Court Types Party Search  
All Courts; Name Isaacman, Jared; All Courts; Page: 1  
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66 1/1

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you.  
Ms. Trusty.

**STATEMENT OF OLIVIA TRUSTY, NOMINEE TO BE A MEMBER,  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you. Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, members of the Committee, thank you for convening this hearing.

Senator Wicker, thank you so much for your very kind introduction. It has been a privilege to work with you on your staff for nearly 8 years, serving the people of Mississippi and all Americans. Thank you so much for this opportunity.

I also thank President Trump for the incredible honor of this nomination to be a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission.

And last but not least, I thank my family for their love and support. And I will briefly introduce those here today and watching via webcast: My parents, Terry and Ellen Trusty; my sisters Lauren, Jennifer, Angela, Elizabeth, and Caroline, and my brother TJ; my brothers and sister-in-law, Thomas Ventimiglia, Matthew Burton, Saula Fifita, and Nain Trusty; and my precious nieces and nephews, Sofia, Thomas, and Julian Ventimiglia, Ella, Jack, Caroline Kay, and Henry Burton, and Isabelle, Summer, Ellen, and Lana Trusty. I love you all so very much.

Growing up in a large family with five sisters and one brother, I was taught early on about the value of service. Through my par-

ents' daily actions, they emphasized the importance of helping others, whether through small acts or larger commitments. As I have grown older, I have credited my parents' example to the example set by my paternal and maternal grandfathers, George Preston Trusty Sr., and Ernest DeWitt Powell Jr., both of whom served our country in World War II and the Korean War, respectively. Although my grandfathers came from different backgrounds, they shared a common commitment to defending this country and protecting the values we all hold dear.

What brings me here today is my desire to continue the shared commitment to public service and love of country that has been in my family for generations.

When I first moved to Washington, D.C., nearly 20 years ago, after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I began my career in the public policy office of a telecommunications company. This is where I was introduced to Universal Service principles and the critical mission of the FCC. During that time, I saw firsthand how access to modern communication services, particularly for Americans living in rural and remote areas could change lives.

I also learned the value of a simple Internet connection, it not only gives communities the ability to stay connected with loved ones, but it opens the door to education, jobs, economic opportunities, and so much more. Indeed, it allows Americans to participate fully in society and an ever-expanding global digital economy. Following my time in the private sector, I have had the opportunity to work in the House of Representatives and in this hallowed chamber on telecommunications, technology, consumer protection, and most recently, national security.

All of these policy areas are core to the FCC's mission to make available affordable, high-speed, reliable, and secure communication services.

Now, in carrying out this mission, it is not lost on me that the problem set facing the Commission is both vast and diverse. The Agency must contend with unforgiving geographic landscapes to achieve universal connectivity. It must stay ahead of sophisticated illegal robocallers defrauding and scamming vulnerable populations like our youth and seniors. It must work with Federal partners to defend the security of our communications networks from the attacks of nation-state actors, and it must work collaboratively with private and public sector interests to ensure that the United States leads the world in next-generation communications.

Notwithstanding these issues, given my unique experiences working on both, this distinguished Committee, and the Armed Services Committee, as well as the dedication and expertise of FCC staff, I believe these challenges can be overcome.

In that spirit, I would like to offer a short list of commitments on which I hope there is bipartisan consensus, if confirmed. If confirmed, I will work with Congress and the administration to expand access to high-speed Internet services for all Americans, protect consumers from illegal robocalls, strengthen the security of the Nation's telecommunications networks, and restore America's leadership in next-generation communications technologies.

Mr. Chairman, thank you again for holding this hearing. I look forward to answering any questions.

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

PREPARED STATEMENT OF OLIVIA TRUSTY, NOMINEE TO BE A COMMISSIONER,  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Committee. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated and I thank President Trump for this opportunity. I also thank my family for their love and support.

Growing up in a large family with five sisters and one brother, I was taught early on about the value of service. Through my parents' daily actions, they emphasized the importance of helping others, whether through small acts or larger commitments. As I have grown older, I have credited my parents' example to the example set by my paternal and maternal grandfathers—George Preston Trusty, Sr. and Ernest Dewitt Powell, Jr. Both of whom served our country in World War II and the Korean War, respectively. Although my grandfathers came from different backgrounds, they shared a common commitment to defending this country and protecting the values we all hold dear. What brings me here today is my desire to continue the shared commitment to public service and love of country that has been in my family for generations.

When I first moved to Washington, DC nearly twenty years ago after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I began my career in the public policy office of a telecommunications company. This is where I was introduced to universal service principles and the critical mission of the FCC. During that time, I saw first-hand how access to modern communications services, particularly for Americans living in rural and remote areas, could change lives. I also learned the value of a simple Internet connection: it not only gives communities the ability to stay connected with loved ones, but it opens the door to education, jobs, economic opportunities, and so much more. Indeed, it allows Americans to participate fully in society and an ever-expanding global digital economy.

Following my time in the private sector, I have had the opportunity to work in the House of Representatives and in this hallowed chamber on telecommunications, technology, consumer protection, and, most recently, national security. All of these policy areas are core to the FCC's mission to make available affordable, high-speed, reliable, and secure communications services.

In carrying out this mission, it is not lost on me that the problem set facing the Commission is vast and diverse. The agency must contend with unforgiving geographic landscapes to achieve universal connectivity; it must stay ahead of sophisticated illegal robocallers defrauding and scamming vulnerable populations like our youth and seniors; it must work with Federal partners to defend the security of our communications networks from the attacks of nation state actors; and it must work collaboratively with private and public sector interests to ensure that the United States leads the world in next-generation communications. Notwithstanding these issues, given my unique experiences working on both this distinguished committee and the Armed Services Committee, as well as the dedication and expertise of FCC staff, I believe these challenges can be overcome.

In that spirit, I would like offer a short list of commitments on which I hope there is bipartisan consensus. If confirmed, I will work with Congress and the Administration to:

- Expand access to affordable, high-speed Internet services for all Americans;
- Protect consumers from illegal robocalls;
- Strengthen the security of the Nation's telecommunications' networks; and
- Restore America's leadership in next-generation communications technologies.

Mr. Chairman, thank you, again, for holding this hearing and I look forward to answering any questions.

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A. BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

1. Name (Include any former names or nicknames used): Olivia Britt Trusty.
2. Position to which nominated: Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission.
3. Date of Nomination: February 11, 2025.

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

Residence: Information not released to the public.

Office: 228 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510.

## 5. Date and Place of Birth: Baltimore, Maryland.

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

Not applicable.

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.

Undergraduate Degree:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, August 2001 to May 2005,  
Bachelor of Arts Degree in Political Science, Awarded May 2005

Graduate Degree:

Georgetown University, August 2005 to December 2006, Master of Arts De-  
gree in American Government, Awarded December 2006

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.

Qwest Communications, Senior Policy Representative and Government Relations Assistant, May 2006–April 2010\*

Verizon, Senior Consultant and Legislative Assistant, April 2010–September 2013\*

Office of U.S. Congressman Bob Latta (R–OH), Legislative Assistant, September 2013–September 2014\*

U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce and Consumer Protection, Professional Staff Member, October 2014–April 2017\*

Office of U.S. Senator Roger F. Wicker, Legislative Assistant/Telecommunications Subcommittee Staff Director, May 2017–December 2018\*

U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, Policy Director, January 2019–December 2022\*\*

U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services, Professional Staff Member/Cyber Lead, January 2023 to present\*\*

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

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

## 9. Attach a copy of your résumé.

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.

Gymnastics Teacher—Hill's Gymnastics, Gaithersburg, MD\*

Adjunct Lecturer—Georgetown University, Washington, DC\*

\*I no longer hold these positions.

12. List all memberships 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 (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. None.

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.

From 2016 to 2024, I have made political contributions to Donald J. Trump for President, WinRed, and the Trump National Committee. The cumulative amount of my contributions to WinRed exceeds \$200. Those contributions are listed below.

11/06/24—WinRed, \$141.00  
 10/16/24—WinRed, \$47.00  
 07/14/24—WinRed, \$20.82  
 08/30/20—WinRed, \$5.00  
 07/26/20—WinRed, \$5.00  
 06/14/20—WinRed, \$5.00  
 05/09/20—WinRed, \$5.00  
 12/20/19—WinRed, \$5.00

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

Athletic scholarship at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (2001–2005)  
 Eastern Atlantic Gymnastics League All-Academic Team (2001–2005)  
 NACGC Academic All-America (2004–2005)  
 Carolina Panthers Graduate Scholarship (2005)  
 Black Women’s Congressional Alliance Honoree (2023)  
 Women in Cable Telecommunications “Listen Award” Recipient (2023)

17. List all books, articles, columns, letters to the editor, Internet blog postings, or other publications 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.

2020 CTIA 5G Summit, Congressional Perspective: What’s Ahead for Washington—<https://www.ctia.org/news/video-congressional-perspective-whats-ahead-for-wireless-in-washington>

2022 FCBA Annual Seminar Congressional Panel

2024 Dynamic Spectrum Alliance Global Summit: Government and Commercial Spectrum Sharing, Creating a Value Proposition for Everyone

19. List all public statements you have made during the past ten years, including statements in news articles and radio and podcasts 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.

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.

X: @obritt3 <https://x.com/obritt3> (active)

LinkedIn: [www.linkedin.com/in/olivia-trusty-2b850398](http://www.linkedin.com/in/olivia-trusty-2b850398) (active)

Instagram: @obritttrust <https://www.instagram.com/obritttrust/> (active)

Instagram: @obtrusty <https://www.instagram.com/obtrusty/> (active)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/public/Olivia-Trusty/> (dormant)

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, committee, and subject matter of each testimony. None.

22. Given the current mission, major programs, and major operational objectives of the department/agency/commission/corporation 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?

For nearly 20 years, I have had the opportunity to work on telecommunications, technology, consumer protection, and national security policy. Every employment experience I have had—which includes over seven years in the private sector and over 11 years on Capitol Hill—involved working on policy issues that are core to the FCC’s mission. If confirmed, I look forward to applying the knowledge and skills I have gained throughout my professional career to advance the availability of affordable, high-speed, reliable, and secure communications services across the country.

I wish to serve at the FCC because I love this country and I have seen the transformational impact that an Internet connection can have on individuals, families, and communities. If confirmed, my efforts would be dedicated to ensuring that every American has access to the Internet and the opportunity to participate in the 21st Century Internet economy.

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

If confirmed, my responsibility would be to carry out the FCC’s mission by making sure all Americans have access to communications services. As part of this effort, I would focus on promoting competition, innovation, and investment in U.S. communications networks, while protecting consumers and strengthening network security.

Managing an organization in the U.S. government—large or small—requires strong leadership that is guided by advancing the public interest and a commitment to the law. It also involves setting clear goals, and fostering a culture of transparency and accountability. A willingness to engage with stakeholders of all different backgrounds and perspectives is also critical to effective management and making informed decisions. My management and leadership experiences on the Senate Commerce Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee have helped me to develop skills in each of these areas. They have also helped me find ways to build consensus and identify common ground on policy issues that can be highly technical and politically sensitive in nature. Altogether, my professional background has prepared me to take on more managerial responsibilities at the FCC, if I have the honor of being confirmed.

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

The top three challenges facing the FCC include the following:

*Achieving universal connectivity.* The cornerstone of the FCC’s mission is to make communications services available to all Americans. With the future of the Universal Service Fund in question, it is imperative that the FCC work with Congress to restore predictability and sustainability to the FCC’s ability to foster and promote the delivery of affordable, high-speed, and reliable Internet services to all Americans.

*Strengthening network security.* Nation states and malicious cyber actors are targeting United States critical infrastructure, including commercial telecommunications networks, to degrade and disrupt America’s economic stability and national security. The FCC has a responsibility to work with private industry and its Federal partners throughout the U.S. government to strengthen the cyber defenses of telecommunications networks against increasingly sophisticated and hostile cyber threat actors.

*Renewing the FCC’s spectrum auction authority.* Making spectrum available for commercial use is vital to continued innovation and economic prosperity in the United States, as well as America’s global leadership in next-generation communications technologies. The ongoing lapse of the FCC’s auction authority severely constrains the Commission’s ability to meet the growing spectrum demands of the private sector, risking the Nation’s economic security and technological leadership abroad. The FCC should work with Congress to renew the FCC’s auction authority immediately to reach our economic goals in the United States and remain competitive in the global digital economy.

## 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 an Individual Retirement Account. I also have a Thrift Savings Plan.

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. 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.

I presently serve as a Professional Staff Member on the Senate Committee on Armed Services. I previously served as a Policy Director on the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation. In both positions, I have been asked for my thoughts on legislative matters pending before Congress, and I have regularly advised Senate offices on communications policy and legislation.

## 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:

No.

a. Provide the name of the 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.

2. Have you ever been investigated, arrested, charged, or held by any Federal, State, or other law enforcement authority of any Federal, State, county, municipal, or foreign government 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 assault, 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/commission/corporation complies with deadlines for information set by congressional committees, and that your department/agency/commission/corporation 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/commission/corporation 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 OLIVIA TRUSTY

### Olivia Britt Trusty

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <p><b>Cyber Lead &amp; Professional Staff Member</b><br/>U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services<br/><i>January 2023 – Present</i></p>   | <p>Advise and provide counsel to the Chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Armed Services on all issues related to cybersecurity, spectrum management, artificial intelligence, data governance, and telecommunications. Maintain active TS/SCI security clearance.</p>   |
| <p><b>Adjunct Lecturer</b><br/>Georgetown University<br/><i>August 2023 – October 2024</i></p>   | <p>Co-led and taught <i>Applied Negotiations</i> class for graduate students enrolled in Georgetown University's Conflict Resolution master's degree program.</p>  |
| <p><b>Policy Director</b><br/>U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation<br/><i>January 2019 – December 2022</i></p>   | <p>Advised and provided counsel to Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS), Chair/Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation on all issues related to telecommunications, broadband, media, technology, data privacy and security, consumer protection, and product safety.</p>   |
| <p><b>Subcommittee Staff Director / Legislative Assistant</b><br/>Office of Senator Roger F. Wicker<br/><i>May 2017 – December 2018</i></p>  | <p>Advised Senator Roger F. Wicker (R-MS), Chairman of the Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, Innovation and the Internet, on all issues related to the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. Managed the personal office policy portfolio on issues pertaining to telecommunications and consumer protection.</p>  |
| <p><b>Professional Staff Member</b><br/>U.S. House Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Digital Commerce &amp; Consumer Protection<br/><i>October 2014 – April 2017</i></p> | <p>Managed the Subcommittee's portfolio on issues related to the Internet of Things, health care applications, autonomous vehicles, new technologies in the manufacturing sector, and other emerging tech issues overseen by the Federal Trade Commission, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Consumer Product Safety Commission.</p> |
| <p><b>Legislative Assistant</b><br/>Office of U.S. Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH)<br/><i>September 2013 – September 2014</i></p>   | <p>Advised Congressman Bob Latta (R-OH), Vice Chair of the Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, on all issues related to telecommunications, technology, and the internet.</p>   |
| <p><b>Senior Consultant &amp; Legislative Assistant</b><br/>Verizon, Office of Public Policy<br/><i>April 2010 – September 2013</i></p>  | <p>Assisted the Federal Government Relations legislative team in carrying out responsibilities related advocacy, communications, research, public relations, and administration.</p>   |
| <p><b>Senior Policy Representative &amp; Government Relations Assistant</b><br/>Qwest Communications<br/><i>May 2006 – April 2010</i></p>  | <p>Directed the Qwest Political Action Committee, and advocated for Qwest's public policy agenda on Capitol Hill regarding legacy telecommunications issues and broadband deployment in rural regions.</p>   |

#### EDUCATION

Georgetown University, Master of Arts, American Government, December 2006  
The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Bachelor of Arts, Political Science, May 2005

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you to you both. Thank you to you both. All right, Mr. Isaacman, let us start. If you are confirmed, you will oversee NASA's various field centers, mission directives, and affiliated activities. This includes Artemis and the Moon-to-Mars

Program, which aims to keep us one step ahead of nations like China in the fight for supremacy in space.

The threat from China is very real. Just last week, General Saltzman, Chief of Space Operations for the Space Force, testified before the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission that Beijing has been explicit as recently as October of last year, in stating that China intends to surpass the United States and become the world's preeminent space power.

As General Saltzman put it, "China's advancement in space technology, their stated desire to dominate, and Beijing's disregard for international norms for the responsible use of space make them an incredible danger to U.S. prosperity and security. China has said that they will put a man on the Moon by 2030, and that they will build a permanent lunar base there, along with Russia, by 2035."

Based on how quickly they have already progressed, I think it is quite possible that China reaches those milestones sooner than those dates, and indeed that China reaches the Moon before the end of President Trump's current term.

Mr. Isaacman, if China beats us to the Moon, what consequences might America face?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Mr. Chairman, I really appreciate that question, and I could not agree more with all of your commentary, sir, including in your opening remarks. We certainly cannot lose. If we do not lead the way and we are following, we may be following forever, and the consequence of which could be extraordinary.

I mean, even if you are talking about things that have maybe even a low probability, let us say, for example, on the lunar surface, helium-3 becomes a new source of fusion power, it could shift the balance of power here on Earth. I do not think we can afford to find that out the hard way.

As you said, sir, and I have agreed for a very long time, space is the ultimate high ground. We cannot afford to cede that ground.

The CHAIRMAN. So my team did a visual representation of what the stakes are, and it is a simple question, what does the future look like in 2030? Now, I will note that my team used ChatGPT to make this poster, and my immediate comment on seeing it is the American flag is too damn small, and I was told it was difficult to get a bigger American flag on AI. That may be underscoring the need to win the race for AI as well, but it does give a sense of exactly what the choices we are facing now.

When we met in my office, you said beating China back to the Moon was, "critical for our national interests". You also said that if President Trump turns on the television and sees Chinese astronauts on the surface of the Moon before Americans, you said you would be fired that day. In your written testimony, however, you said quote, "We will prioritize sending American astronauts to Mars." There seems to be a bit of tension between the commitment you made in my office and your testimony.

What is your view? Will you maintain course with the Artemis program so that we can return American astronauts to the Moon before President Trump leaves office?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Mr. Chairman, I really, I really appreciate the statement. First, I could not agree more with the President and his inspiring and ambitious goal to send American astronauts to plant

the stars and stripes on Mars. He did not say we should not go to the Moon. I suspect the President, as I feel and probably a lot of Americans is, is what is taking us so long to get back to the Moon and why does it cost so much money?

I absolutely want to see us return to the Moon. As I mentioned in my prepared remarks, determine the economic, scientific and national security value, while we are also proceeding toward Mars. I do not think we have to make any tough trades here, Senator. I think if we can concentrate our resources as the world's greatest space agency, we do not have to make a binary decision of Moon versus Mars, or Moon has to come first versus Mars, I think we could be paralleling these efforts and doing the near impossible, which is exactly why the American taxpayers funded NASA in the first place.

The CHAIRMAN. Well, I will say on the question of whether NASA has to implement Moon then Mars, United States law is explicit non-equivocal on that. 51 U.S.C. Section 20302, which Senator Cantwell and I wrote, says, "The vision for space exploration, the administrator shall establish a program to develop a sustained human presence in cislunar space or on the Moon as a stepping stone to future exploration of Mars and other destinations." The notion of the Moon as a stepping stone is explicitly in U.S. law. Do you acknowledge that?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Yes, I do, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. And let me ask you, given the current NASA budget, if we assume for a moment we are not going to see a dramatic shift and NASA's budget double tomorrow, do you believe it is possible to stand up a full mission to the Moon and a full mission to the Mars simultaneously?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, as I mentioned my prepared remarks, I think we can absolutely do that. We can figure out the space economy in low Earth orbit. We can run more scientific missions. This is the Agency that went from sending Alan Shepard on a suborbital mission, and 8 years later we saw Neil Armstrong and Buzz Aldrin on the surface of the Moon. Do I think that we can get back to the Moon, chart a course for Mars and do all the other things; absolutely, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. So do we have your commitment that you will not allow the scenario on the right on this poster to happen, that China will not beat us to the Moon, that one of these heroes sitting in this room will set his or her, and as a father of two daughters I am particularly excited that Artemis has committed, it will be a "her", the first woman will step foot on the Moon and she will be an American astronaut. Do we have your commitment that we will win the race to the Moon and China will not beat us?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I only see the left-hand portion of that poster.

The CHAIRMAN. And next time we will make the American flag bigger.

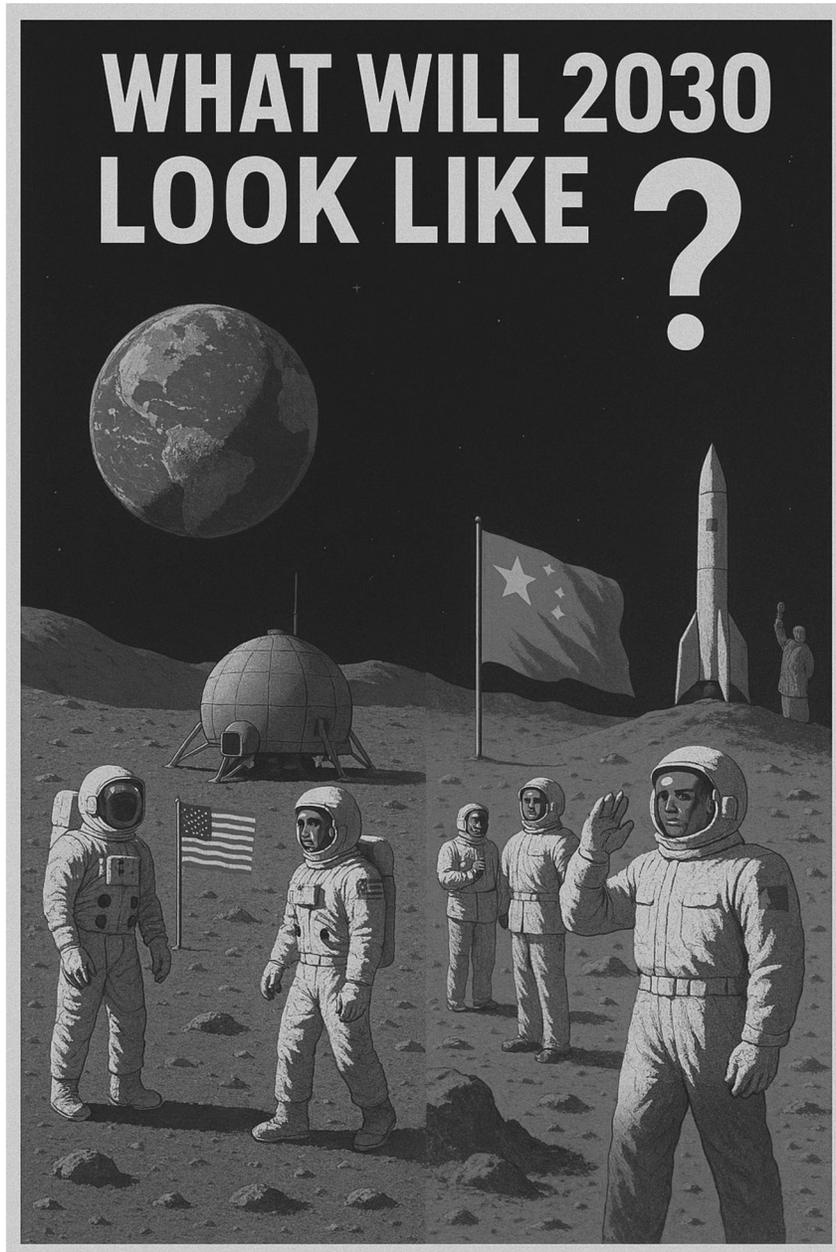
Senator Cantwell.

Senator WICKER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the poster be placed in the record.

The CHAIRMAN. An excellent idea.

Senator CANTWELL. I do agree.

The CHAIRMAN. And a Chairman who is crossing his T's and dotting his I's would have done so already; without objection.  
[The chart referred to follows:]



The CHAIRMAN. Senator Cantwell.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And continuing on this same point; listen, I have no doubt of your capabilities at the technical side of this and the expertise both on the aviation and the space side. It is a question, I think, of a long-term challenge of different administrations to deliver on this goal and how each administration and each Congress does or doesn't support it. So I view your job as like wrangling the powers that be to support the mission and understand what it is going to take to support the mission.

So like Senator Cruz, I want to understand a little bit more about your commitments. The most recent Economic Impact Report highlighted that in Fiscal Year 2023, NASA projects to generate more than \$75 billion in economic output. And the National Academy Studies chaired by Norm Augustine found that NASA's budget office is often incompatible with the scope, complexity, and difficulty of its mission work. That means that we end up short-changing it to certain degrees.

So I want to make sure I understand what your commitment is because there is been so much in the press. Do you commit not to closing any of the NASA's ten centers or divesting from critical infrastructure without the expressed authorization of Congress?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, you absolutely have my commitment to work alongside Congress. I think NASA is going to require the best and brightest from across the Nation in all of our critical infrastructure in order to achieve its mission to do the near impossible for all humankind.

Senator CANTWELL. Do you see any reason to close these ten centers?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, there is only so much that I can be briefed on in advance of this opportunity. I fully expect to roll up my sleeves and determine where all of our best resources are so we can get back to achieving the mission as quickly as possible.

Senator CANTWELL. The 2024 National Academy's Report noted that the use of service and firm fixed-price contracts at early stage of technology development can jeopardize mission success and degrade NASA's own in-house technical capabilities. What are your thoughts about these fixed-term contracts?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, as some—

Senator CANTWELL. Do you agree with that statement? I guess, do you agree with that statement? They can be deleterious. I am just asking if you agree with that.

Mr. ISAACMAN. I take two things away from that, Senator. First, having run a defense aerospace company for more than a decade, and generally I am a fan of fixed-firm price contracts and being held accountable to what we did. In terms of the difference between NASA's in-house expertise and what commercial industry is able to provide, I believe NASA should be working, again, per my prepared remarks, on the near impossible, what no one else is capable of doing, and when they figure it out, commercial industry takes over and brings the rest of the world to follow.

Senator CANTWELL. You might be one heck of an entrepreneur in relation to science. You said you are not a scientist. But that won't matter if we make very bad decisions based on somebody's arbitrary budget analysis instead of what is our long-term mission. So

that is what we are trying to get out of you. How do you think we are going to accomplish this so that we have a more—listen, the more we can explain this to everybody, I guarantee you the more my colleagues will support it in a budget.

The more it gets slashed and burned by different approaches, by DOGE, the more harmful it can become to people undermining the support for the mission overall. So you have a big challenge here. It is to move us forward at a critical moment.

So do you believe that we should have a reduction in workforce, or the science budget, some of the things that I mentioned in my opening statement?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I read what is on NASA Watch and in the news like everybody else. If I am confirmed, I am eager to understand all of the considerations, the discussions being made about a reorganization, I believe that we are going to need the best and brightest to do the near impossible, and we should be concentrating all of our resources on the most critical objectives that I kind of outlined in my opening remarks, ma'am.

Senator CANTWELL. Do you support the continued Artemis Mission with the Space Launch System?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I believe that is currently the plan. I would like nothing more than to see this Artemis II crew get around the Moon, and then they are back at home watching their friends walk on the Moon. I think the real question is, again: Why has it taken so long? Why does it cost so much money?

Senator CANTWELL. But in the issue of: Are we going to commit to this? I think this and the Lander Redundancy are kind of like—people see that as a: We are going to the Moon and we are going to get this done. Not this discussion of like, we are going to skip these things, short change this, and then we are going to focus on Mars in a different route. That is what I am trying to get from you.

Whether when you get there, I get that you are saying it is the current plan. I am asking as a nominee to run this organization, do you have a different view of that, that you think right now, yes, there is a different way to do this?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Ma'am, I can tell you not just as a nominee, but as a space enthusiast who wants my daughters to see American astronauts walking on the Moon, it was the left-hand side of that poster that I am fully supportive of. I would like nothing more than to see Artemis II get around the Moon, and again see Americans walking on the Moon. And again, I do not think these are either/or. I mean, NASA is an extraordinary Agency that can do the near impossible. We can chart a course for Mars in line with the President's vision to return to the Moon before the Chinese can get there to figure out the space economy and do the other things, ma'am.

Senator CANTWELL. There is a lot here. The HiCAM program on thermoplastic composites, do you support that program at NASA?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I think NASA has the best, brightest, most talented engineers and scientists and we should be working on cutting-edge technology.

Senator CANTWELL. OK. I will want for the record whether you support that in, you know, clarity, not just like, hey, I like cutting-edge technology. These are really big decisions that lots of us have

already weighed in on, and we just want to know whether they are going to get slashed someday because the President wakes up and says he does not want to do it, and whether you are going to say yes, yes, go ahead? So this, it will take all of us working together.

Ms. Trusty, I do not want you to keep going—ignored through the conversation. My time has expired. I will want to come back to you on the MVD, the broadcasters getting more ability in the marketplace, particularly as I mentioned earlier, you want a vibrant news competition, particularly when it comes to local journalism, reopening that case at the FCC. But I will take that for coming back on a second round.

And I love that, Senator Wicker thinks that you play chess instead of checkers because we need a lot more chess playing at the FCC. Thank you.

The CHAIRMAN. Grand Master Wicker.

[Laughter.]

Senator WICKER. Also, you can go out and shoot skeet and then come back and play chess. But thank you very much.

Well, let me direct my first question to Mr. Isaacman. You probably know that NASA has eight field centers, one of which is the John C. Stennis Space Center in Mississippi. The Stennis Space Center is home to NASA's largest rocket propulsion test site. If we did not have that, we would have to build another one. The Stennis Space Center also hosts a number of companies working on commercial space programs; the Space Center's infrastructure represents substantial government investment as well as private investments.

So the day after you are confirmed and sworn in, will you come to visit me in Mississippi at the Stennis Space Center?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I will get there as soon as I possibly can, Senator.

Senator WICKER. All right. Well, I think that is a fair answer.

Now, Ms. Trusty, let us talk about the plan for Broadband Bill, we finally got that reported a few weeks ago, and you worked with members of this committee, even as a staff member for the Armed Services Committee, in getting some compromised language on the Plan for Broadband Act. Do we need it, and what accommodations did we make to get everybody on the same page?

Ms. TRUSTY. Senator, thank you so much.

Senator WICKER. You can take about a minute and a half.

Ms. TRUSTY. OK. Thank you so much for the question. Thank you for your leadership on this issue. You know, interagency coordination is essential to closing the digital divide. I think as many members on this committee know, there are about 130 broadband programs across 15 different agencies, and GAO has determined that those programs are fragmented and duplicative.

And there is an opportunity to streamline, consolidate, and coalesce these programs so that the resources are better targeted to unserved areas so that we can get communication services to more rural, remote areas that lack connectivity right now, and expand and close the digital divide—or just close the digital divide, not expand it.

And so I think the Plan for Broadband Act is the key to the solution, it creates a strategy that will help us to target these resources

better to unserved communities so that everybody can fully participate in the global digital economy.

Senator WICKER. And we had to accommodate high-cost areas, tribal areas, and also do some compromising on the spending cap. So I do appreciate that.

Let me ask then in the last two minutes, during COVID-19, the broadband across Europe suffered several disruptions. Did we have that kind of disruption in the United States, or was there a difference, and why do you think things may have turned out differently in Europe as opposed to here in the United States?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you so much, Senator. I appreciate this question. You know, I think the reason why we did not face the same issues here during the COVID pandemic as it relates to our Internet networks, is because competition and innovation, a light-touch regulatory framework we saw worked really well. We just have not seen the predicted harms materialize in the absence of more prescriptive legacy regulations.

And so under your leadership, when I was on this committee, to ensure consumers were protected, even if competition and innovation fail, you set up a Bipartisan Net Neutrality Working Group to put together bipartisan legislation to ensure that consumers were protected regardless, but that we had a modern framework. I thought that was a great example of how to move forward with our next-generation networks, and ensure that consumers continued to have access to critical connectivity services.

Senator WICKER. Has there been any throttling or blocking in the United States in recent years?

Ms. TRUSTY. Senator, I am not aware of any of the predicted harms materializing that were projected during this debate a couple of years ago.

Senator WICKER. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Senator Kim.

**STATEMENT OF HON. ANDY KIM,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEW JERSEY**

Senator KIM. Yes, thank you, Chair.

Mr. Isaacman, I would just like to start with you. I guess I just wanted a little more clarity about, are you committed to having a permanent presence on the Moon?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I think the biggest thing is we need to get back there. It has been taking a very long time and the American taxpayers have invested an awful lot.

Senator KIM. I agree with you on that front. I think we can take that for granted between me and you, but I guess I wanted to get a sense because, you know, the Chairman laid this out actually, and then the poster that he had was not just about getting back to the Moon, but it was about sustaining a presence on the Moon. And I just feel like I do not have a good understanding of what your actual position is right now on that.

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, I think, Senator, again, the first step to me is to return to the Moon and determine its economic, its scientific, and its national security value for remaining there.

Senator KIM. Yes. I saw that in your statement. And I guess, again, I was confused, because in your response to the Chairman, you were talking about how Helium-3, this is something that could very well shift the balance of power within the—you know, here on Earth. What else are you looking at? Like what else is in your mind right now beyond Helium-3 and the impacts there when you are talking about scientific, economic, and national security?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, I mean, that is what we need to get there to find out. You know, all the best science fiction movies out there have something like Helium-3 as the economic justification for an enduring presence, not just on the Moon, but through-out, you know, space exploration.

Senator KIM. So I guess, you know, kind of as we have been talking about this, you know, Moon, Mars, two priorities, you were much more definitive about saying we need to get to Mars. So I guess I just want to ask you that same question. What are the scientific, economic, and national security priorities that you see more clearly when it comes to going to Mars right now than in terms of having a permanent presence on the Moon?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, to be clear, I certainly hope in the future that we have lots of space stations, a full lunar outpost, a Mars outpost, and we are pushing even beyond that. I am just saying we need to get back to the Moon. We need to figure out why we need to be there, and I certainly hope there is a reason.

Senator KIM. Why do we need to be—what I am trying to get a sense of, you seem much more definitive about saying we need to get to Mars and putting resources toward that effort. What are the specific economic, scientific, and national security interests you see there? Because I get a sense that you have some greater clarity there than you do when it comes to the Moon.

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, I would actually hope you are getting a sincere answer from me that we should be doing both and the other things. Now Mars—

Senator KIM. Do you think we can do both Moon and Mars on the current NASA budget?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I sure hope so. And NASA was built to do the near impossible and have a thriving space economy in low Earth orbit and continue extraordinary science missions to kind of unlock the secrets of the universe, sir.

Senator KIM. Well, I guess I just want to reinforce what the Chairman said. I mean, I think we need to have much more clarity in how we are talking about, what is our objectives when it comes to the Moon? As mentioned, we have a lot more clarity about what China's objectives are, and I hope that that is something that you can clarify quickly if you are confirmed.

When it comes to the International Space Station, what is your perceived timeline there in terms of when we should be starting to bring that down?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, first of all, I do not know of any reason why we should be bringing it down before what is currently scheduled. What I do think we need to do is maximize its remaining life, get as much of the high potential science and research to the station, figure out what that space economy is so when the day

does come to hand it off to the commercial LEO destinations, they are in a financially self-sustaining type way.

Senator KIM. And you talked about that in terms of the space economy. In terms of what should succeed the International Space Station, do you believe that that should be commercial only, or do you see prospects of the U.S. Government, or a government-run space station to succeed the International Space Station?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, right now, Senator, if we do not figure out the space economy, whether it is commercially operated or not, it is going to be entirely financially sustained by the Government.

Senator KIM. So I guess I am asking what is your—do you have a preference, in terms of do you see a sense of need for a government-run—I guess I am just trying to ask you, what is it that NASA can do that commercial efforts cannot do?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, I mean, that is a fantastic question, Senator. I mean, the line should be drawn, again, in terms of NASA undertaking the near-impossible challenges that, again, no company, organization, or agency anywhere in the world would be able to undertake it. I gave a very good example, I think, in my opening remarks on nuclear propulsion; that is something that no company would ever embark upon. There is no obvious economic return, there are regulatory challenges. That is exactly the kind of thing that NASA should be concentrating its resources on.

Senator KIM. The last thing I just want to say here, and I know I am running out of time, I am really hard to see. I think we are all very proud of the astronauts that are here in this room. But I think I could speak for them and say, look, we also recognize the importance of the civil servants playing so many different roles for the safety and the innovation that is out there.

As I expressed to you, I am concerned about how this administration has approached what I believe are indiscriminate cuts at different—and firings at different departments and agencies. And if you are confirmed, I hope that you stand up against indiscriminate cuts. I think we are all very—recognizing that there are places for efficiencies and elsewhere. But we need to make sure that we are protecting the expertise that is out there.

And with that, I will yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Senator Fischer.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DEB FISCHER,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM NEBRASKA**

Senator FISCHER. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and thank you to our two nominees today for your commitment to public service.

Ms. Trusty, I appreciated meeting with you to learn more about your experience and your goals if you are confirmed as a FCC Commissioner. And as you know, one of my top goals is to maintain a steady and predictable Universal Service Fund. Congress' intent has been clear, we must keep all Americans connected. I also look forward to co-chairing the Universal Service Fund Working Group with Senator Luján to advance this priority.

Ms. Trusty, how do you view the Universal Service Fund and its mission to Universal Service?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you so much for the question, Senator, and thank you for the time. It was great to meet with you and discuss your priorities.

The Universal Service is the cornerstone of the FCC's mission. The Universal Service Fund itself has connected millions of Americans across the country. As you know, there is somewhat of an uncertain future with the Universal Service Fund as there is a constitutional challenge before the Supreme Court, and the contribution base is shrinking as more Americans shift to internet-based communications.

And so I think it is incumbent upon the FCC to work closely with Congress and interested stakeholders to identify a specific, predictable, and sufficient form of support as required in the Communications Act to continue meeting the needs of Americans across the country.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you. From my experience serving on this committee and also on Armed Services Committee, I appreciate the differing cultures, missions, and priorities of the various Spectrum stakeholders, and I have seen the consequences when they conflict. I worry that Federal missions, including national security, can be undermined because of these frictions, particularly when collaboration among stakeholders is strained and consensus cannot be reached.

Ms. Trusty, what do you think the appropriate role is for the FCC and its engagement with the Department of Defense?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator. And I appreciate this question because I know this is such an important topic and a sensitive one, too. So you know, as you have noted, I have worked on both the Armed Services and Commerce Committees, both great experiences. During my time on the Armed Services Committee, I have certainly developed a greater appreciation for DOD's national security mission and how critical Spectrum is in carrying out that mission.

I also know from my time on the Commerce Committee that Spectrum is the lifeblood of wireless communications. It is essential to meeting our economic objectives, both domestically and abroad. And so I think given these two experiences, I can certainly help find solutions where there is common ground, where we do not have to sacrifice our Spectrum for warfighting needs, but we can also create opportunities to repurpose Spectrum for commercial use.

And I think the way to do that, frankly, is to have everybody in the same room at the same time hearing the same things. Otherwise, I think there is a lot of information that gets lost in translation, contributing to further misalignment on Spectrum policy. When we are all together, it can further promote transparency and accountability in these processes.

Senator FISCHER. Well, how do you think this dialogue can become more constructive? Do you have any suggestions on how to do that? As a member of the staff on the Armed Services Committee, you had access to classified briefings that others do not have access to. So you have a fuller understanding of what is at stake here. So how can we have a constructive dialogue?

Ms. TRUSTY. Well, Senator, I think that is the issue. You know, when I was on the Commerce Committee, I did not have a full clearance, and so I was not privy to many of DOD's assets and capabilities. But when I was on the Armed Services Committee, I had a clearance and could understand better, or to a better degree, why some of the assets and systems were so essential. I will say, though, I think we have to find a way to accommodate both our national security and economic security interests. I worry that if either side of this debate fails, then our global competitors win, and I think that would have a devastating consequence to our economic and national security.

Senator FISCHER. And I think we are beginning to achieve that, this way forward.

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, ma'am.

Senator FISCHER. Looking at the international role on telecommunications, how can a more unified position among Federal agencies boost the United States' global leadership? How can we ensure that national security perspectives are included in an overall position that we have for this country?

Ms. TRUSTY. Absolutely, Senator. Thank you for this. So I had the opportunity to attend the last WRC in Dubai, and I think the takeaway was that America did not put our best foot forward because we did not have a unified approach to our Spectrum policy. And so I think if we have a unified strategy where we highlight key U.S. interests, whether with respect to both our economic and national security, it gives us more time and space to work with our international partners and allies to develop coalitions where they have a lot of similar interests. And going into it that way, we can preempt those who are attempting to undermine U.S. values, among other things.

Senator FISCHER. And if confirmed as an FCC Commissioner, the Commission, as a whole, would definitely have a leadership role in that process, correct?

Ms. TRUSTY. Absolutely. So the Department of State typically runs the WRC process, but NTIA and the FCC certainly contribute to that.

Senator FISCHER. Thank you very much.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Senator Klobuchar.

**STATEMENT OF HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MINNESOTA**

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Thank you to both of you for being here. You win the prize as the best name for a nominee, Ms. Trusty.

So I just wanted to have one follow up from Senator Fischer's questions, because I care a lot about Universal Service. Senator Thune and I have worked a lot on that together. How do you think the FCC should modernize the USF to ensure its long-term sustainability?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you for the question, Senator. You know, I know that there are a number of proposals on the table, whether it comes from identifying a specific predictable or sufficient funding resource to ensure the Universal Service Fund can continue to

meet connectivity needs across the country. There are proposals about a Federal appropriation or looking to other private sector entities to contribute to the contribution base.

I think all of those things should be discussed between the FCC and Congress to ensure we can continue meeting connectivity needs across the country.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you. As you know, I work with Senator Wicker on the Data Act to improve the accuracy of the FCC's broadband availability maps, but we know more work needs to be done. If confirmed, how will you continue to work to ensure the accuracy of the maps?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator. So you know, I was on this committee when the Broadband Data Act was passed with the goal of making sure we knew where broadband is available, where it is not, to better target resources to unserved areas. You know, as a part of that law, there is an opportunity for a challenge process where folks can challenge the accuracy of the data, which I think can help improve the accuracy of the maps.

I also think the FCC should work with private sector stakeholders who produce their own maps to inform the accuracy of the maps so that we can better target resources to areas who remain unserved, or remain—yes, remain unserved.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. OK, very good. Thank you. And as you know, I care a lot about getting the broadband funding out. We have talked to a number of nominees about that. I will ask you a question in writing on 9-1-1.

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. So thank you.

Mr. Isaacman, welcome. We had a good talk over the phone. I mentioned STEM was really important to me. I was looking back—in 2017, President Trump signed into law, and I remember because Senator Fischer called me from the White House, she was there, and she said, "What is this bill of yours he is signing into law?" because she happened to be there. And they did an event.

So it was a bill authorizing the NASA Administrator to encourage women to study STEM—it is called the INSPIRE Women Act and pursue careers in aerospace. Could you talk about promoting the STEM workforce, and then your role if confirmed as NASA administrator, how you can inspire more people to go into STEM in general? I'm just coming off the robotics competition in Minnesota on Saturday. Thank you. I was there.

Mr. ISAACMAN. Understood, Senator. First step is I am still working on getting my two daughters to want to grow up and enter a sphere—enter into the STEM fields. I have tried with space flight and I will get there. I would love to answer that really in two parts. I think the first thing is, first it is a fundamental obligation of NASA to inspire the next generation to want to be scientists, engineers, astronauts, pilots, doctors, researchers, and I think the best way NASA can do that is by executing on its mission.

I mean, that is what is going to have children want to dress up as astronauts and scientists for Halloween, is to get back to the Moon, to get to Mars and to inspire the world with whatever the replacement is someday for James Webb that gives us a hundred times the resolution.

The second part, ma'am, is what I mentioned in my opening remarks about NASA being a force multiplier for science. Once we inspire them in their youth to want to grow up and join this grand endeavor, we want to get them hands-on in their various academic institutions.

I think NASA can lend its expertise, its talent, its bulk buying of rockets, its standard bus architecture, and get academic institutions to want to contribute, whether it is building probes, or sensors, get them hands-on so when they graduate they want to join the greatest space agency in the world.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Very good. You know, I think not just with space but also with medical developments right now because of a combination of mapping of the human genome, home of the Mayo Clinic, Minnesota, as well as the potential of AI to do good when it comes to things like rare diseases. We are just on this cusp of scientific development kind of bursting out. I do get concerned about some of these cuts to science-based research and agencies across the government, not just space related. Will you be an advocate for science within the administration?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Yes, ma'am. I do believe the President is looking to usher in a golden age of science and discovery. Personally, I just spent a few days ago with 50—40 different science and researchers sharing the results from my most recent mission to space. I am passionate about science. I would love nothing more than to continue to see NASA go out and try and unlock the secrets of the universe.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. Thank you.

Senator MORENO [now presiding]. Phenomenal plugs for Minnesota in that questioning.

Senator KLOBUCHAR. I always find a way. You will learn that soon, Mr. Moreno.

Senator MORENO. So, Senator Moran, see if you can top that for Kansas.

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

Senator MORAN. Well, that was not what I intended to talk about, but I am happy to promote my state and have to, certainly, to Mr. Isaacman. Wichita, in particular, the air capital of the world, Wichita State, NIAR, and these astronauts, when I had a conversation with them by phone, asked me the question: Do you know that you have the greatest space museum in the world in Kansas? To which I said, I know that, I am just pleased that you know that. Can I tell the rest of the world that you are saying those things? And so I thank you for that opportunity, the Cosmosphere in Hutchinson, Kansas.

Ms. Trusty, let me start with you. I am pleased by your nomination that President Trump has chosen to nominate you. I appreciate the friendship you and I have had over a long period of time of my office in Dirksen, and we have passed and had conversations in the hall for a long time. I have great faith in you.

Let me ask you these—well, on that topic, let me tell you that it has been my disappointment over time to watch the FCC become much more partisan and incapable of reaching decisions. It has

changed in the time that I have been in the Senate, as the Senate has changed in the time that I have been in the Senate, and I would encourage you to use every effort to find ways, to find solutions to problems, and to bring the Commission together to serve the American people. And I do not know that I need to ask you, but I assume you would say that you will do so?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, absolutely, Senator.

Senator MORAN. Thank you. I want to mention just Spectrum policy, as a couple of my colleagues have mentioned before. Looking at Congress' options about authorities to the FCC, when it comes to reauthorizing that Spectrum Auction Authority, what would your recommendations be?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator. I think this is very important. So I would recommend that Congress restore auction authority as quickly as possible. I think it can be a catalyst to investment and innovation, particularly as it relates to expanding broadband infrastructure across the country. I also think it serves as a signal to the rest of the world about how we are prioritizing our telecommunications policy and where we are going.

This is underpinning every emerging application that we can think of, artificial intelligence, quantum computing, and so much more. And so I think by showing that we have confidence in our regulatory processes and frameworks to have auction authority restored to support that kind of innovation, I think that will go a long way.

Senator MORAN. Ms. Trusty, media ownership is back in the news again. Do you believe it is important for the FCC to rid us of the rules that are no longer necessary or inhibit competition that currently exist in media ownership rules?

Ms. TRUSTY. I appreciate the question, Senator. I definitely think we need a modern regulatory framework that reflects the realities of today's video and media marketplace. As you know, the media marketplace has changed dramatically over the last two decades, driven largely by technology advancements and changes in consumer preferences.

Consumers have access to all sorts of things, your traditional broadcast and cable, as well as live streaming video and social media, all things that make for a great personalized television viewing experience and things that I think the FCC should continue to promote that allows broadcasters to flexibly compete against technology companies for ad revenues, consumer viewers, as well as programming.

Senator MORAN. Ms. Trusty, that is particularly true in rural America where the options are fewer than they used to be, and local programming, is it difficult to task or accomplish. So I encourage you to pursue those changes.

One more, BEAD implementation, one of things we are worried about is the timing of the FCC's efforts in deploying broadband funds when BEAD is yet uncompleted. Because one of the goals is to make sure that we do not overbill, and that you are not both providing dollars to the same opportunities to provide broadband and Internet services.

So would you consider—how would you consider the FCC in holding off moving forward on allocating 5G funding until BEAD alloca-

tion decisions have been made in order to maximize the efficiency of those 5G funds?

Ms. TRUSTY. I appreciate this question, Senator. This goes to the heart of interagency coordination. I think the FCC and NTIA need to be in constant contact about where BEAD is going, when it is going, so that we can be better stewards of taxpayer dollars, target funds to unserved areas, ensure that there is no duplication or overbuilding, as you mentioned, and there could be a possibility where BEAD infrastructure could be leveraged for USF funds or vice versa.

But I think this all goes to interagency coordination and making sure we are the best stewards of taxpayer dollars. So you have my commitment that I would do that, Senator, if confirmed.

Senator MORAN. Thank you.

Mr. Isaacman, let me tell you that I now have concern about your leadership capabilities. While you were indicating that you were working on getting your daughters to pursue STEM education, both of them were shaking their heads this way.

[Laughter.]

Senator MORAN. I hope you can fare better at NASA.

Mr. ISAACMAN. We are going to fix this, Senator.

Senator MORAN. In the short 12 seconds that I have left in my time, I will ask, I guess, one question. Do you believe that the current Artemis architecture featuring SLS Rocket or Orion Spacecraft is the best and fastest way to beat China to the Moon?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, this is the current plan. I do believe it is the best and fastest way to get there. I do not think it is the long-term way to get to and from the Moon and to Mars with great frequency. But this is the plan we have now and we have got to get this crew around the Moon and the follow-on crew to land on the Moon.

Senator MORAN. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Senator MORENO. I now recognize Senator from Michigan, Gary Peters.

**STATEMENT OF HON. GARY PETERS,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MICHIGAN**

Senator PETERS. Thank you, Senator. Congratulations to both of our nominees here, on your nomination to these important positions.

Mr. Isaacman, we had a great opportunity to talk yesterday in my office about a variety of issues. Artemis came up frequently as I know it has come up at the hearing frequently as well, including Senator Moran in the previous question, and you suggested here and there that NASA can pursue the Artemis program, our mission to the Moon, and a potential Mars mission in parallel tracks, is how you have been describing it.

I am concerned though about the possibility of achieving that. While we expect budget cuts to NASA, we have already seen cuts and somewhat significant cuts, I would argue, to staff at NASA. So my question for you is do you agree that budget cuts would undermine that vision that you are expressing?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well Senator, I think right now NASA has a pretty extraordinary budget. I believe it is close to every Federal law

enforcement agency combined times two. With that budget and those resources available, I do believe we can do the near impossible. I think we can have multiple flagship scientific missions at once, which means we can have multiple space exploration missions at once, and try and solve the space economy in low Earth orbit, sir.

Senator PETERS. Even with budget cuts, you will be able to do that, and—

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, I am not familiar with what the—what is potentially being contemplated, but I will absolutely do the most with the resources available to try and deliver on NASA's world-changing mission, sir.

Senator PETERS. So given the—I think it is pretty clear we are likely to see constrained budgets. How do you envision speeding up our timeline for the Mars mission that you talked about while also ensuring that Artemis is properly resourced and protected from any future cuts that may come their way?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, I think across the board we have to acknowledge, as I mentioned in our opening remarks, we do have problems here. The President—presidents have called for return to the Moon and a path to Mars since 1989. We spent a lot of money and we have not gotten this crew around the Moon, let alone landing on it. If I am confirmed, I absolutely am going to roll up my sleeves and get in the trenches with the best and brightest and figure out where we have our program challenges, what is impeding progress, clear those obstacles and get back to delivering on the mission.

If we can do that, then we are going to get the inspirational side of NASA going, we are going to get the STEM side growing, and the next generation is going to grow up and want to reach even farther, sir.

Senator PETERS. As you know, public private partnerships between NASA and commercial space companies is a critical part of space exploration efforts, you know that firsthand from your flight to space twice with SpaceX. And I understand that you have business ties with SpaceX previous to your nomination as well.

My question for you, given the fact that Elon Musk serves both as the CEO of SpaceX as well as—is a White House employee and leader over DOGE, which has significant influence over spending and contracts, at least that is what we have been seeing, certainly in our meeting, I was happy to hear you say to me that you are not beholden to Elon Musk in any way. So I want to give you an opportunity to say that on the record, if I may.

So first, have you had any communication, e-mails, text or calls with Elon Musk regarding how your plan to manage NASA since you were nominated?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Not at all, Senator.

Senator PETERS. What steps will you take, if confirmed, to ensure that he is not allowed undue influence, given the extensive contracts that he has with NASA, to make sure that he has no undue influence over the awarding or the implementation of those contracts?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, I think, Senator, I absolutely want to be clear. My loyalty is to this Nation, the Space Agency and their

world-changing mission. I have to imagine that in the 1960s, Administrator Webb would have taken phone calls and welcomed the input from all the various contractors that were contributing to the endeavor. But they are the contractors. NASA is the customer. They work for us, not the other way around, Senator.

Senator PETERS. Very good. Ms. Trusty, you have a deep history working on defense related Spectrum issues that are absolutely critical, as you know, to our security apparatus. However, agencies other than the DOD use Spectrum for key public safety applications, and I believe that they need to be protected as well.

One such band is 5.9, also known as the Auto Safety Spectrum, which is overseen by the Department of Transportation. This band allows for the deployment of safety technologies, including cellular vehicle to everything technology that certainly enables collision avoidance, freight efficiency movements and a whole lot more. In 2020, some of the Spectrum was allocated away from these auto safety purposes, which in my mind will reduce roadway safety in the long term. And I believe we cannot let that happen again.

I think my Senator from Ohio will agree that we have to make sure auto safety is always put at the forefront of considerations when it comes to the Spectrum. So my question to you is, if confirmed, will you commit to protecting the remaining Auto Safety Spectrum for roadway safety innovation like the cellular vehicle to everything technology?

Ms. TRUSTY. Senator, thank you for this question and it is really important to me. In my time in the House I worked closely with NHTSA on vehicle safety issues. So I am very familiar with the safe—the life saving potential of C-V2X, it will be—and so I think as a—if confirmed, my responsibility is to put Spectrum to its highest and best use, meaning maximizing its economic and societal benefits.

When it comes to vehicle safety that will certainly be a part of the information in the record, and I would be happy to work with you to ensure that C-V2X can be deployed with the resources it needs so it is readily available to all Americans.

Senator PETERS. Well, I hope it is a priority and we'll—if confirmed we will work closely with you.

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator.

Senator MORENO. Senator Blackburn.

**STATEMENT OF HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM TENNESSEE**

Senator BLACKBURN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you to each of you for getting that testimony in and for being here today. We appreciate it and appreciate the opportunity to visit with you.

Mr. Isaacman, I was so pleased to hear you talk about nuclear propulsion. We have Oak Ridge National Labs, we have Arnold Air, which is the only place you can do hypersonic testing, and of course, Huntsville and Marshall Space Flight is very close to our Tennessee border. We have a lot of Tennesseans that are there. So pleased to hear you put some emphasis on that, we agree with you that emphasis needs to be placed there.

But I want you to just give me a synopsis of what you think is the most important area of competition as we look at what is hap-

pening with China, with Russia, with great power competition, what North Korea and Iran are doing?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, thank you very much for the question. For starters, competition can work really well. I think competition from a commercial perspective is doing great. We have gone from a world where at one point in time the Nation had a dependency on one launch provider, and foreign rocket technology. Now, we have a very mature commercial industry with several providers able to help us accelerate mass, and people and astronauts into orbit.

Well, competition works well in the global stage as well, ma'am, so long as we do not lose. And right now, I mean, that could not be more important in the ultimate high ground of space. I mean that is a critically important domain. NASA will continue to press out, lead the way in that ultimate high ground. But we are going to need our partners in the Department of Defense, the Space Force, we are going need to be collaborating and making sure they are watching out for us.

Senator BLACKBURN. Ms. Trusty, welcome. And I am so pleased to see so many of your family members here to support you. And to all of the—I guess it is nieces, and nephews that are here.

Ms. TRUSTY. That is right, and siblings, and friends.

Senator BLACKBURN. Just know she is really smart and she is working hard. OK. We talked a little bit about spectrum and as you know, it concerns me that 60 percent of our mid-band spectrum is held by Federal agencies. Much of that is sitting fallow, it is not being used. We cannot afford that. We are commercializing only 5 percent of that.

So talk to me about the importance of NTIA conducting an inventory, the importance of the FCC supporting an inventory, the importance of Congress restoring the ability to have spectrum auction authority?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator, for this question. So I will start kind of from the first part about restoring auction authority. As I mentioned previously, I think this is incredibly important to our economic and national security. I think auction authority serves as a catalyst to investment and innovation, not just for broadband deployment across this country, but for emerging technologies and applications that will allow us to be a global leader in technological innovation.

As far as supporting an inventory, I think an inventory could be good. It tells us what spectrum is being used and how. As you know, there may be some things that are classified or sapped and they will not be available to the public. But certainly members of the Committee could have access to that information to make more informed decisions about spectrum management. But I think we do need to have a full view of what is available, what is being used, so that we can properly put Spectrum to its highest and best use for economical—

Senator BLACKBURN. And maybe even share some of that spectrum?

Ms. TRUSTY. Potentially, as the studies indicate. Yes, ma'am.

Senator BLACKBURN. OK. Talk to me a little bit about USF. I know Senator Fischer and Senator Klobuchar asked you about

that. And I think USF has outlived its usefulness and needs to be replaced with something different. We will see what the court has to say about it. So articulate reforms if they say you can keep USF, and replacement if they say you cannot?

Ms. TRUSTY. Sure, Senator. I appreciate this question. So Universal Service is the cornerstone of the FCC's mission. It is a part of the Communications Act to advance and preserve Universal Service generally as a concept and—

Senator BLACKBURN. Yes. I just want to know reforms. Yes.

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator. So there could be distribution reforms, or contribution reforms, depending on what the facts tell us. I think there is an opportunity to have performance metrics for each of the programs to understand what the efficacy is of each of those programs in addressing the needs. There could be better oversight over eligibility requirements. There could also be better oversight over participating providers' compliance with those programs to ensure that those dollars are being targeted to those who need them.

Senator BLACKBURN. Excellent. Thank you so much.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

I am going to send you one question on PAOLA.

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, ma'am.

Senator BLACKBURN. Because that is so important to our artists there in Tennessee. And to each of you, all the children deserve ice cream. They have been awesome today.

[Laughter.]

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator.

The CHAIRMAN. I would ask, Senator Blackburn, is the ice cream limited to the children?

Senator BLACKBURN. Senator Cruz, you showed up on time today, so you, too, deserve ice cream.

[Laughter.]

Senator BLACKBURN. I will be certain that at lunch I serve you ice cream.

The CHAIRMAN. I will take it. Senator Luján.

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

Senator LUJÁN. It looks like I am joining you for lunch, Mr. Chairman. Mr. Chairman, thank you for this hearing today.

It is good to see you both here and with family support. That means something. Ms. Trusty, in last month's Supreme Court oral arguments in the USF case, the Solicitor General noted that the FCC Commissioners do not have statutory for-cause removal protections. In our meeting yesterday, you stated that the issue of for-cause removal was subject to pending litigation and that you would not weigh in.

Regardless, it appears that President Trump believes he can fire you at-will when confirmed. How will you maintain your independence if the President can fire you simply because he may not like a position you take?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator. I appreciate the question and I understand the importance of the issue. My job, if confirmed, is to focus on upholding and enforcing the law. Whatever happens with what is subject to pending litigation, my first obligation is to

facts, the law, and with respect to the proceeding that comes before the Commission, and that is—I think the FCC has a very transparent and open process and my commitment would be to making sure that I have—what I commit to, I have no fear—without fear of favor, I would make a decision with respect to any individual or entity that comes before the Commission.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. Yesterday when we spoke, I shared with you I was a former utility commissioner and the importance of the training I received as an administrative law judge. And while we may be able to gather information elsewhere, it is the importance of the record. The decisions that will be made that are in front of you will be based on the record that is established. Is that something you agree with?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that. Ms. Trusty, as I shared with you yesterday, I have also been very disturbed by the actions taken by Chair Carr to investigate broadcast companies for their editorial decisionmaking. In January, Chair Carr reinstated complaints against ABC regarding its moderation of the debate between Trump and Harris. Trump complained that the debate was, quote, “rigged” and stated, “They ought to take away their licenses for the way they did that.” Do you think it is appropriate for the President to call for the revocation of broadcast licenses?

Ms. TRUSTY. So Senator, I think President Trump has First Amendment rights to express his views. My responsibility, if confirmed, is to focus on the facts, FCC precedent and the law in carrying out whatever the decisionmaking process is for proceeding before the Commission.

Senator LUJÁN. As part of that, In March 2025, Chair Carr gave an interview to *Bloomberg News* in which he said, “any business that are looking for FCC approval, I would encourage them to get busy ending any sort of their invidious forms of DEI discrimination.” In addition, Chair Carr said that “CBS editorial decision regarding an interview with Vice President Harris would factor into the review.” My question to you is: Do you think it is appropriate to consider a broadcaster’s editorial decisions when reviewing a merger?

Ms. TRUSTY. So Senator, with respect to mergers or transactions, I would be—I would look at them through the lens of what advances the public interest. As you know, these are very fact-specific cases that require a thoughtful and thorough review of information in the record, and I would be guided by the statute.

Senator LUJÁN. Let me ask the question very clearly. Do you believe that the FCC should be weaponized against media organizations?

Ms. TRUSTY. No, Senator.

Senator LUJÁN. I appreciate that very much.

Now, Mr. Isaacman, I have many questions for you. I want to be—I am always aware of my members’—my colleagues’ time as well. I am going to submit your questions to the record.

Ms. Trusty, I just want to conclude by sharing with you that you have an ethical record. You have a strong reputation on Capitol Hill, protect it. You have a bright future. We need good Democrats, good Republicans. I do not agree with all your positions, I do not

agree with all my Democratic colleagues' positions, but the FCC should be a strong independent body. We need good people there. And I appreciate you being here today.

I yield back.

Senator CANTWELL. Mr. Chairman, if I could, before we continue. For the record, Senator Fetterman would like to be recorded as an "aye" by proxy on the Roth nomination.

The CHAIRMAN. Without objection, the record will be corrected to so reflect.

Senator Sullivan.

**STATEMENT OF HON. DAN SULLIVAN,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM ALASKA**

Senator SULLIVAN. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. And to our nominees, congratulations, and thank you for willing to serve your country and your families, great to see so many families here.

Ms. TRUSTY, I want to make sure I get your commitment off the bat to come to Alaska, see the many challenges we have in Alaska. You can bring your whole family, we can do it during the summer, go fishing, but I need you to get out to my state and see the challenges, particularly as it relates to communications, broadband, Internet connectivity. You know, people talk about rural, and then there is Alaska, which is just way more rural than everywhere else. Can I get your commitment to do that?

Ms. TRUSTY. Absolutely, Senator.

Senator SULLIVAN. And you know, when the FCC commissioners do that, they have all come to our state, they realize that in terms of the FCC, there is really, really the need for importance on embracing flexible policies as it relates to Alaska. The FCC came up with The Alaska Plan, as I am sure you are aware of, and then they have now referred to that as the FCC's Alaska Connect Fund.

Will you commit to me to working with any—on any future changes? There is a midpoint pause in 2029 relating to the Alaska Connect pause that gives the FCC the opportunity to look at different flexibilities there. Can I get your commitment to work with me on both what was The Alaska Plan and now the Alaska Connect Fund?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator, I would be happy to.

Senator SULLIVAN. That has strong bipartisan support over the last several years in the FCC, pretty much all the commissioners have supported it. Can I get your commitment on that?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes. Yes, Senator.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great. I am going to ask you a question for the record on media ownership that I would like your response on.

Mr. ISAACMAN, have you seen the movie "The Martian"?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I have, Senator.

Senator SULLIVAN. OK. I have a—well, my daughters are older now, but when I took them to see that, they were very inspired. And you kind of have the Hollywood version, the live version right here, with all these smart, good looking astronauts in our hearing room today. Can you give me your ideas on how to promote better through media, maybe even through Hollywood, these upcoming missions to the Moon, missions to Mars, to inspire our young people?

I think it is a really, really great opportunity. I do not think NASA has always embraced that opportunity, but we have so many exciting things on the horizon. And I mean it, when you look at these astronauts and how smart they are, and how inspiring they can be to young Americans to serve their country, to study science. Give me your thoughts on that, and what an opportunity we have to take advantage of that?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, I completely agree. And as I mentioned before, I think it is a fundamental obligation of NASA to inspire the next generation to want to grow up and be scientists, engineers, astronauts, researchers, and set the bar even higher. And I do believe the first step on that journey is to execute on the mission.

I mean, nothing is going to create more future scientists and engineers than seeing American astronauts on the Moon, American astronauts on Mars, in line with President Trump's vision, planting the stars and stripes on Mars.

So I do think that is a fundamental obligation. I think that NASA right now we could do a better job, if confirmed, on emphasizing quality, content over quantity. There is, I think, about 300 different NASA social channels. They are awesome. They put a lot of good things out. I think we can narrow that down and make sure we are capturing the really inspirational footage, what everybody wants to see that inspires them to grow up and want to reach even higher.

Senator SULLIVAN. Good. I think you will have strong bipartisan support for doing that. I also want to get your commitment, if confirmed, to come to Alaska?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, as a pilot, I have been fortunate to fly around Alaska quite a bit. And I would point out on aircraft that rolled off assembly lines in Wichita—I know Senator Moran would like to hear that—I am looking forward to returning.

Senator SULLIVAN. Good. Because as you know, and you have helped pioneered commercial space flight, you know better than most that the future of space access is not just Cape Canaveral, or Vandenberg, it is increasingly spread across our entire country, including places like Alaska. The specific Spaceport Complex on Kodiak Island is the only high altitude, polar-capable spaceport in the United States. There is rising demand for facilities like that at Kodiak in terms of both government and commercial launches. They have done both.

And I would love to take you out to Kodiak Island. Not just to see the largest brown bears in the world, of which we have thousands, but a really, really up and coming spaceport complex. Have you ever spent time out at the Kodiak Spaceport Complex?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I have been there. I did not see any bears. I was looking and I would love to return, sir.

Senator SULLIVAN. OK. So you and I are going to return, and we will get an eye on some bears, maybe do some fishing with Ms. Trusty when she brings her family.

[Laughter.]

Senator SULLIVAN. But in all seriousness, that is a spaceport complex that I think has enormous potential. Would you agree with that?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I think that, as mentioned before, space is the ultimate high ground. It is a vitally important domain for national security. I frankly think we need more spaceports. We have to always ensure our access to low Earth orbit and ensure national security.

Senator SULLIVAN. Great. Thank you.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. And by the way, if anything, Senator Sullivan is underselling the fishing in Alaska. It is phenomenal. It is not quite as big a state as Texas, but it, but it has enormous natural beauty.

Senator SULLIVAN. OK, Mr. Chairman, you do not want to do the size stuff with me.

[Laughter.]

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Blunt Rochester; yet another massive state.

**STATEMENT OF HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM DELAWARE**

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. That is correct. That is correct, Delaware. And we are, that is right, we are the first state though. That is the important thing.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and to Ranking Member Cantwell; welcome Ms. Trusty, and Mr. Isaacman, and your families.

I would like to start my questions with Ms. Trusty. As an avid tech person myself, I love this stuff. Based on predictions, I have seen that 6G is coming sometime in the early 2030s. And I have heard exciting things about how 6G networks will be integrated with AI to enable better connectivity. In the House, I was fortunate to lead bills on immersive technology, and it really helped, helping us train our workforce. AI literacy was one of the bills that I focused on. And just the notion of being able to do things in real time, real-time adaptive changes presents a lot of opportunities, but it also presents challenges.

There were some issues that delayed the initial 5G rollout, such as Huawei being used as a potential supplier, infrastructure build out issues and more. And I view the 6G rollout as a crucial step in our competition against China in the national security realm as well as technology spaces.

Ms. Trusty, if confirmed, what specifically do you think the FCC can do to ensure that the 6G rollout is smoother than the 5G rollout was?

Ms. TRUSTY. Great. Thank you for the question and I really agree with so much of what you said. I will start with cybersecurity and making sure networks are deployed in a secure way. And I applaud this committee on making sure the Rip and Replace Fund was fully funded.

I have been interested to see the creation of the National Security Council at the FCC. And I think that is an opportunity for the FCC to leverage its authorities in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act to ban other high-risk equipment and vendors from our Nation's communications networks. I also think the FCC can promote the adoption of open radio access network technology, which can help diversify and strengthen our domestic supply chain so that we are not overly reliant on one or two vendors.

And I think it can help increase security, competition, and ultimately reduce the cost of providing these networks in the first place.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. I am a big supporter as well on strengthening our supply chains. We actually have a Cantwell, Blackburn, Blunt Rochester Bill. I like to call those my strange bedfellows bills where we come together on these issues that we know are going to affect all of us. I want to also discuss the potential security concerns about 6G, particularly given, again, the flaws in 4G and 5G networks, such as a study finding that 100 percent of 4G networks were susceptible to denial of service attacks, and 5G being vulnerable to network attacks. I know this is an easy one. So maybe it is a yes or no. Will you prioritize cybersecurity for 6G networks?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. And what other potential measures do you think the FCC can take to best secure 6G networks in particular?

Ms. TRUSTY. You know, I think this, a lot of this can be done through AI. I am really excited about the development of the technology, and I think there are tremendous use cases in not only detecting fraud and scams, but securing the network itself. So if I am confirmed, I would look to leverage artificial intelligence in these ways.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. You kind of preempted my next question, which deals with so many Americans. It is estimated that around four million—or four billion robocalls are made per month. In fact, Delaware, while we are the first state, I do not like the fact that we are the first state in robocall complaints. I think I probably received four of them while I was sitting here. And there is now this AI-powered grandparent scams.

Back when I was in the House, as I mentioned, some of the legislation I introduced, but we had one on the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act, to help tackle scams that target seniors. And I encouraged the FCC—I am encouraged that they now cover AI voice calls under the TCPA. And last year, now Chair Carr supported requiring callers to disclose, upfront, to consumers when they receive an AI-generated call. Do you support requiring callers to disclose to consumers when it is an AI-generated call?

Ms. TRUSTY. I certainly think that can be helpful in protecting consumers from illegal robocallers, Senator.

Senator BLUNT ROCHESTER. And I will say consumer protection is one of the areas that we are very much focused on. Should you be confirmed, we would like to continue to work with you on that.

And Mr. Isaacman, we had a very good conversation as well. I will be submitting questions for the record because I respect the Chairman's time. So I yield back.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Senator Young.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TODD YOUNG,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM INDIANA**

Senator YOUNG. Well, thank you both for being here today. Mr. Isaacson—Isaacman, rather, the U.S. economy, national defense infrastructure, they all rely on satellites extensively these days, for

GPS, for weather, for communications purposes, for surveillance, and much more. So a collision or a loss of key satellites could result in even catastrophic national security and economic costs. As you know, the TraCSS system, Traffic Coordination System for Space was launched in 2024. It is being developed to provide situational awareness data across civil, military, and commercial sectors.

Mr. Isaacman, if confirmed, how would you ensure that NASA coordinates with the Department of Commerce and DOD on space situational awareness, and space traffic management efforts?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, thank you very much for the question. This is a subject that I am pretty passionate about. My two missions to space, the number one risk we faced was from orbital debris. For starters, I think NASA absolutely will play a role. As you know, this new frontier continues to open, and ideally, we have lots of space stations, and lots of activity, and a great, flourishing economic environment in space, I believe all of the information that we can gather from our assets on space debris should be funneled into a single mission control that has the ultimate situational awareness.

But I have to say also, the biggest threat, Senator, is what we cannot track, what is so tiny, the millimeter-size objects at orbital velocity that can shred a satellite or a spacecraft. And in that respect, we have to stop adding to the problem.

The United States is very good at not adding to the problem. I cannot say that is the same for some of our geopolitical rivals, sir.

Senator YOUNG. Maybe you could speak with a little more specificity about the gravity of the problem. Paint the picture for those who might be watching these proceedings about how extensive this challenge has become. I will just let you take it from there.

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, absolutely. A lot of people think of whether it is a discarded second stage in orbit or a defunct satellite as the problem. We know where they are, and we can have trajectories that avoid them. The issue is the speck of paint that falls off that satellite that is now traveling at 17,500 miles an hour and can collide with another object going 17,500 miles an hour.

I had an opportunity to visit the NASA facility, the White Sands Missile Range, and see what a one- and two-millimeter piece of aluminum does at near orbital velocities, and I can tell you what it penetrates through is pretty—it is eye-opening, to say the least.

It is an issue. We certainly need to do all we can to avoid any sort of kinetic conflict in low Earth orbit, to stop adding to the problem. Again, I think the United States does a fantastic job at doing this. We need to work really hard to make sure others, maybe less responsible actors do not add to the problem.

Senator YOUNG. Well, I would like to work with you on this challenge, should you be confirmed, as I believe you will be. So clearly, you are conversant in it, and it sounds like you will be prioritizing this.

Ms. Trusty, the FCC's International Bureau Telecom and Analysis Division, TAD, issues licenses to own and operate submarine cables and associated landing stations in the United States. Commercial undersea telecom cables carry approximately 99 percent of transoceanic digital communication, serving as a physical backbone for our internet. Since 2022, Russia has stepped up its attacks on

this infrastructure. In 2023, Yi Peng 3, a Chinese tanker that had previously departed a Russian port, cut two Baltic Sea cables.

You know, incidents like this we are reading about them on a regular basis these days. Ms. Trusty, what steps is the FCC's TAD Office taking to protect undersea cable infrastructure and the sensitive data and information transmitted across undersea cables every day?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator, for the question. I think this is such an important issue. I focused a lot on it during my time on the Armed Services Committee. This is such an important part of our critical infrastructure, and I think we need to do more to secure it. As you mentioned, the FCC works closely with Team Telecom to review and approve undersea cable applications. I think we can promote more transparency in our foreign ownership in these undersea cables, so we have a better sense of what the risk might be.

I also think we should try to promote more U.S.-led undersea cable projects so that we can eliminate the risks entirely. In addition to that, I think exploring the diversification of undersea cable routes to ensure that there is no single point of failure to the extent an undersea cable is disrupted. But I think, as a protective measure, we should work on strengthening our disaster recovery and emergency response plans, given that some of these cables are so vulnerable to exploitation.

If I am confirmed, Senator, this would be a priority of mine.

Senator YOUNG. My office will follow up with you on some of your answers for further elaboration, but I do get the sense you are very much dialed into this. I will just make one last comment, knowing that we have colleagues waiting.

Setting standards, Ms. Trusty, at the FCC through international governing bodies is increasingly important. I think we have been outflanked over the years by the Chinese in particular, but also by others. We need to develop a unified position here at the Federal level between the FCC, and state, and the NTIA, and various other entities so that we can prioritize this moving forward. So we will follow up with a question for the record about that as well.

Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you. Senator Duckworth.

**STATEMENT OF HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM ILLINOIS**

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Ranking Member of the Aviation and Space Subcommittee, I am looking forward to getting a bipartisan NASA reauthorization done to make sure that NASA is able to execute its mission with a consistent vision and congressional support, free of undue influence from any temporary government employees.

According to the Global Counterspace Capabilities Report published this month, the PRC is rapidly advancing a broad spectrum of counterspace capabilities as part of a sustained push to secure military power in orbit and expand their presence in space. The PRC has also started building its second satellite Internet constellation in low Earth orbit and has committed to continued human presence in LEO at its Tiangong space station.

More than ever, NASA's missions need to be consistent and laser focused, and avoid major subversions of mission priorities and diversion of funds, not only for our global space leadership but also for our national security.

I am going to, Mr. Isaacman, ask you a couple of yes/no questions, but first, I just want to say that a sustained human presence in low Earth orbit is crucial for advancing scientific research, testing technologies for future deep space missions, and fostering a thriving economy and global leadership, as LEO serves as a unique environment for research, development, and training due to its microgravity environment.

By supporting extended human operations in LEO, NASA can test exploration systems, conduct human research, and maintain operational expertise vital for missions on the Moon and to Mars. These are not things that can be done by machine alone, and a gap in our human presence in LEO will likely result in ceding our leadership to the PRC.

Mr. Isaacman, do you support maintaining continuous human presence in low Earth orbit?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I do, Senator. I think if reusability has given us anything, it is a very affordable path to send American astronauts to and from low Earth orbit.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you. Elon Musk has suggested that the International Space Station's strategic value has run its course and should be deorbited as soon as possible to focus on a mission to Mars. For the last—and that is quote, he said, “As soon as possible.” For the last 26 years, the strategic value of the International Space Station has been invaluable, serving as a beacon of the United States' global leadership and a symbol of what we can accomplish through international cooperation.

Funnily enough, although I do not think it is very funny at all, SpaceX has been awarded the contract to deorbit the International Space Station. Mr. Isaacman, do you believe there is still utility in maintaining a U.S. presence on the ISS, at least through 2030, as currently planned?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, as I mentioned in my prepared remarks, I think we need to use up every bit of life that is remaining on the International Space Station so we can crack the code on the space economy and better hand off those responsibilities to commercial industry. I am familiar with Mr. Musk's remarks in that. I do think he is a very accomplished entrepreneur. I would like to understand his rationale behind that. Just as I think, you know, Administrator Webb would want to hear from all of the commercial contract leaders from the 1960s during the space race.

Senator DUCKWORTH. But you do not think that we should deorbit the ISS now?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I do not think we should deorbit it now. I think we need to make the most use of the space station while we have it, and figure out what we can accomplish in the unique environment of microgravity, and figure out the space economy for Commercial LEO.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Thank you. The Artemis program is critical in our effort to return to the Moon, and returning to the Moon is seen as a stepping stone for broader human exploration, and crit-

ical for scientific discovery, advancing technology, and as a necessary preparation for eventually progressing to human missions to Mars. I know a few of my colleagues already today have tried to get a specific answer out of you, but you have avoided directly answering them today. So I ask again.

Mr. Isaacman, do you support maintaining NASA's long-term mission to maintaining—maintaining NASA's long-term mission to maintain a human activity on the Moon?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, and I am sorry if I am not sounding clear on this. I think it is imperative that we do both. I think that is what NASA was created to do. I would love nothing more than to see this crew get around the Moon, for us to land on the Moon, figure out its scientific, economic, national security value, while we are also charting a course in line with President Trump's vision for American astronauts to plant the stars and stripes on Mars.

Senator DUCKWORTH. So you think we can do both simultaneously?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I mean, we do multiple flagship scientific missions at NASA. We maintain a presence in LEO where we are undertaking dozens of scientific experiments at once. I think we can, ma'am.

Senator DUCKWORTH. Do you think we can maintain a mission—a presence on the Moon and a mission to Mars simultaneously?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I think we can do the Moon, and Mars, and beyond.

Senator DUCKWORTH. OK. You know, whatever we can do to support the space program, I am on board. I just have one final question, I am asking all the Trump nominees: If given an illegal or unconstitutional order by President Trump or your superiors, would you oppose it?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I do not think President Trump would give an illegal order, but I would follow the law, ma'am.

Senator DUCKWORTH. And you would oppose—if he were?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I do not believe the President would give me an illegal order, ma'am.

Senator DUCKWORTH. OK, that is fine. But if given an illegal or unconstitutional order, will you oppose it?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I will always follow the law, ma'am.

Senator DUCKWORTH. So is that a yes? You will oppose an illegal order if given one by either the President or your superiors?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I will always follow the law.

Senator DUCKWORTH. I am out of time, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Moreno.

**STATEMENT OF HON. BERNIE MORENO,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM OHIO**

Senator MORENO. I will start with you, Mrs. Trusty. Thank you so much for taking the time in my office. We did not know each other before meeting with you. Your parents are beaming with pride, which I love to see, with good reason. You are somebody who has an incredibly great temperament, incredible intellect, and I cannot think of somebody more qualified to do your job, honestly.

The one question I have for you is, there is a scourge of robocalls, it creates enormous amounts of scammers. Seniors are getting

bilked of their life savings. How would you use advanced technologies to put an end to this?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator. I really appreciate this question, because you are right. I worry about the susceptibility of our youth and seniors to robocall scams. And I really worry about how illegal robocallers, as we just discussed, are leveraging artificial intelligence to get around call authentication measures.

So I think, generally, the FCC could benefit from stronger enforcement authorities and penalties to go after illegal robocallers. I also think the FCC can continue its work in working with international counterparts as well as state attorneys generals to go after these fraudsters. But I think we need to discuss more proactive call-blocking measures so that these calls never reach the end user. So again, I think artificial intelligence is the key here.

Senator MORENO. Well, thank you, and I cannot wait to have you in that agency taking care of it.

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, sir.

Senator MORENO. And I am sure you will. And again, thank you for serving this country.

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, sir.

Senator MORENO. Mr. Isaacson [sic], I am sure with your deep intellect that you know that the Aircraft Engine Research Laboratory in Cleveland, Ohio, was created 17 years before NASA was created. And there is a sign when you walk, or when drive into the center that says “For the Benefit of All”; what does that mean to you?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, I do believe that NASA’s mission is to undertake the near impossible, to solve the most demanding, complex engineering challenges to bring the commercial—so the commercial industry can follow, and to bring the rest of the world along the way.

Senator MORENO. And that is something that I am sure you have a passion, a deep passion, to make sure that we are always the leader; is that correct?

Mr. ISAACMAN. A hundred percent, Senator.

Senator MORENO. And just for the record, could you give me a sense of the scale of difficulty it was for you as a kid, if I can say that, as a teenager, to create a company that would become as successful as yours? Give me the scale of difficulty, and kind of some of—give me one example of a deep challenge you faced making that happen that you thought maybe was not possible?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, there is a—there was certainly a lot of ups and downs over the last 26 years. I would say probably some of the earliest challenges, although, I mean, as a company that went through the Dot-com, the Great Recession, the pandemic, we certainly had our fair share of obstacles along the way. Probably some of the hardest was the earliest days, Senator, where we tried to grow through our own cash-flows, which is always a challenge. And I was 16 years old, so I had to make sure I hid myself from any trade shows, or in-person meetings. Occasionally someone would show up at the house for a meeting, and my father fortunately took that for me.

Senator MORENO. It is always hard to meet underachievers. So congratulations on that. How will you use that skill set at a complex organization like NASA?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, NASA is an extraordinary agency, and they are the most accomplished, well-respected space agency in the world. I want to do whatever I can and work alongside the best and brightest to continue that. I do suspect there are some things that I have learned through running two successful businesses over the last two—you know, more than two decades that I think I can help bring to the Agency.

I would love to roll up my sleeves, figure out what is being—what are the challenges we have from a program management perspective that are causing everything to take longer than it should, and cost more than it should. I would like to instill a very strong mission-first culture at the Agency, that if we can execute on our mission and get to the Moon, get to Mars, and all the other things, the inspiration, the STEM education will all take care of itself.

A culture of ownership and accountability, that when we make mistakes, we own them, we fix them, and we get back to delivering on their important objectives.

Senator MORENO. Well, thank you for that. And I have one last question.

Ms. Trusty, one hundred percent unequivocal support from me. I hope to see my Democrat colleagues join us and see if we can get as many votes for you as humanly possible.

But for Mr. Isaacson [sic], I have one question. It does hinge for me, the entirety of whether I can support your nomination or not. Who is the most important character in the movie Armageddon?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Clearly Bruce Willis, for the important self-sacrifice for all mankind, sir.

Senator MORENO. Let the record show he did not say Dan Truman, which makes me wonder of his judgment. But I will still reserve my vote for you.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Moreno. I would note that when you were describing the motto “For the Benefit of All” at the facility in Ohio, I thought you were going to reference the phrase “To Serve Man”, the classic Twilight Zone episode that ends with “It is a cookbook. It is a cookbook.”

Senator Markey.

**STATEMENT OF HON. EDWARD MARKEY,  
U.S. SENATOR FROM MASSACHUSETTS**

Senator MARKEY. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

Ms. Trusty, congratulations on your nomination. As you know, I authored the E-Rate, E for Education, program in the House of Representatives as part of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, because I believed then, and I believe now, that access to education should not depend on your ZIP code. Thanks to the E-Rate, thousands of schools in the United States now have high-speed Internet access. That is millions of students who can research, learn, and grow with the tools they need to succeed in the 21st century economy. Do you agree that the E-Rate program has been a success?

Ms. TRUSTY. Senator, thank you. Yes, I agree that E-Rate has been an important part of making sure students are connected across the country.

Senator MARKEY. Student education has changed a lot since I created the E-Rate program nearly 30 years ago. Today, learning often extends outside the schoolhouse, putting many low-income and rural students who lack Internet access at home at a serious disadvantage. Do you agree that having access to high-speed broadband at home is important for students and educators in our modern educational environment?

Ms. TRUSTY. Certainly, Senator. I think having access to broadband at home, at school, everywhere across the country, is important.

Senator MARKEY. And do you agree that a predictable funding source for E-Rate is critical for schools and libraries to stay connected?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator. The Communications Act requires a specific, predictable, and sufficient funding source for Universal Service.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. Now, let us turn to a different issue. Over the past few months, Chairman Carr has taken a series of steps to attack broadcasters over their news programming. He pressured CBS to release a transcript of an interview with Vice President Harris that supposedly contained evidence of deceptive editing.

When the transcript clearly refuted that allegation, Chairman Carr still opened a docket to accept public comments on it. He has taken similarly baseless steps against ABC and NBC, and he opened an investigation into the underwriting practices of public broadcasters without citing any evidence of wrongdoing.

Taken together, these actions indicate a Chairman intent on weaponizing the FCC's legal authorities for ideological and partisan purposes.

Ms. Trusty, I understand you cannot comment on open proceedings, so I will ask generally. Do you agree that the FCC should not open or conduct investigations for political purposes?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator. I agree with that.

Senator MARKEY. If asked to vote on an investigation or enforcement matter that violates the First Amendment, will you vote against that matter?

Ms. TRUSTY. So Senator, I do not want to speculate on something that has not happened yet. But what I can tell you is—

Senator MARKEY. If it is a violation of the First Amendment, will you vote against it?

Ms. TRUSTY. What I can tell you is, I firmly believe in the First Amendment. And I will not do anything to violate it.

Senator MARKEY. OK, that is what I wanted to hear, and I am glad to hear that you will take that position. And I am going to be closely monitoring the Commission's work to ensure that it complies with the First Amendment. Thank you.

Mr. Isaacman, you have deep personal and financial ties to Elon Musk. You have invested tens of millions of dollars in SpaceX. You have paid millions of dollars to SpaceX for two private space

flights. Your payments company, Shift4, has an ongoing, “global strategic partnership” with Starlink worth millions each year.

And according to a recent *Wall Street Journal* report, Musk personally asked you to lead NASA. Given SpaceX’s significant interest before NASA, you can understand why the public would be concerned about conflicts of interest here. So let us try to set a few things straight. I understand that you met with Elon Musk at Mar-a-Lago in late 2024; is that correct?

Mr. ISAACMAN. No, Senator. I was in Mar-a-Lago to be interviewed by the President of the United States.

Senator MARKEY. So you did not meet with Elon Musk at Mar-a-Lago?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I went to Mar-a-Lago to be interviewed by the President of the United States—

Senator MARKEY. I did not ask you that. Did you meet with Elon Musk at Mar-a-Lago?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I believe he was one of dozens of people that were around Mar-a-Lago at the time, Senator.

Senator MARKEY. So did you meet with him?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I would not say we had a meeting. We probably had a conversation in passing, Senator.

Senator MARKEY. OK. During that same trip, then President-elect Trump offered you the NASA Administrator job; is that correct?

Mr. ISAACMAN. At the conclusion of the meeting, Senator, he did.

Senator MARKEY. Thank you. Was Elon Musk in your meeting when Trump offered you the NASA position at Mar-a-Lago?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I was interviewed by the President of the United States.

Senator MARKEY. Was Elon Musk in the meeting when he offered you the job?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, my meeting was with the President of the United States.

Senator MARKEY. So Elon Musk was not in the meeting; is that what you are saying?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I was being interviewed and speaking with the President of the United States.

Senator MARKEY. Can you just say he was not in the meeting? Was he in the meeting or not in the meeting?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I am trying to be as transparent as I can. I was being interviewed by the President of the United States.

Senator MARKEY. It is not a difficult question. Was Elon Musk in the room when the President offered you the job?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I was—again, my meeting was with the President of the United States.

Senator MARKEY. I am assuming that you do not want to answer the question directly because Elon Musk was in the room. I think that is the only conclusion anyone listening to this could reach, unless you want to dispel us of that notion.

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, again, I was being interviewed by the President of the United States. I would also say I have no—

Senator MARKEY. That is not what—I appreciate that. I am just trying to determine Elon Musk’s role in this, and you are not will-

ing to be fully transparent. Have you discussed your plans for NASA with Elon Musk?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I have not.

Senator MARKEY. So those questions obviously raise serious questions. And I want to turn to one more specific question. From monitoring sea level rise to polar ice loss, to wildfires, NASA's satellites are the backbone of climate research used by scientists, policymakers, and the public across the globe. NASA's Earth Observing System collects and archives more than 147 terabytes of data each day. This data underpins climate action efforts at every level of the government, and it drives global research collaborations, and it informs life-saving disaster response.

It is a public good. Yet the Trump administration is seeking to undermine that. A recent investigation found that large swaths of climate datasets, visualizations, and web tools, once publicly accessible, have been altered or taken down. This unprecedented roll-back of public information compromises scientific continuity and transparency at a time of accelerating climate threats and extreme weather events.

If confirmed, will you commit to fully restoring and maintaining access to data, as well as resisting any political pressure to sideline climate research at NASA?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I can tell you I am very passionate about the Earth Sciences Division inside of NASA, especially with respect to anything that has impact on human life and the financial repercussions for remediating things such as wildfires, landslides, flooding. Earth Sciences also, it plays a big role in—

Senator MARKEY. But will you—

Mr. ISAACMAN.—near-earth asteroid protection.

Senator MARKEY. But will you make a commitment to restore all of that information so that it is available to the public? It is vital scientific information.

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I have not been made aware of any information that is not being provided. I mean, I am just not familiar with any of these changes, Senator.

Senator MARKEY. I am very disappointed in your question [sic]. All this information is vital to getting the information into the hands of scientists and ultimately ordinary citizens too.

The CHAIRMAN. Thank you, Senator Markey.

Senator MARKEY. And I appreciate your indulgence, Mr. Chairman.

The CHAIRMAN. Mr. Isaacman, in response to Senator Duckworth, you said multiple times you will follow the law. Under every circumstance, you will follow the law. I appreciate that commitment.

I want to go back and revisit the exchange you had with Senator Kim, because one component of the law, you have said, and I am glad to hear it, that under your leadership, America will beat China back to the Moon. That is important. But the law is clear beyond simply going to the Moon, that is part of it; that going to the Moon shall be a stepping stone for further exploration of Mars. The ultimate objective is Mars, but going to the Moon is critical.

The law also specifies explicitly, "The Administrator shall", and when legislation uses the word "shall", it denotes a mandatory obli-

gation, "The Administrator shall establish a program to develop a sustained human presence in cislunar space or on the Moon." With respect to Senator Kim you were reluctant to commit on a sustained human presence on the Moon. Could you clarify your view on that to this committee?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Well, Senator, as a space enthusiast, I would like nothing more, as I have said before, to see a number of lunar outposts, and Mars outposts, and for us to even progress farther out into our solar system. If we have—if we are in an unlimited budgetary environment and can maintain an ongoing presence on the lunar surface, I am more than supportive of it. I think it is imperative that we have to get back to the Moon first as quickly as we possibly can, figure out again the scientific, economic, national security value to being there, which I am very hopeful that we are going to find in order to support the ongoing presence on the lunar surface, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. So the statute is written in the disjunctive. It gives the choice of either the surface of the Moon or cislunar orbit; what is your view on the Gateway project?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, that is an area that if I am confirmed, I would, again, would love to roll up my sleeves and get—further understand what is working right? What are the opportunities the Gateway presents to us? And where are some of the challenges? Because I think the Gateway is a component of many programs that are over budget and behind schedule, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. So you are describing Gateway as over budget and behind schedule. I will say there is a long history in NASA of administrations coming in and canceling programs and causing massive delays. Barack Obama did that with Constellation, and NASA struggled for years as a consequence. As Administrator, are you going to cancel the Gateway program?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I have no intention as of now to say that I would cancel any program. I need to, if I am confirmed, get in the job and understand where things are at. I want to assure you and this Committee that I want to see America win and succeed and lead in space, whether that be the Moon, Mars, low Earth orbit, and beyond. I do not want to see us come in second place, and I certainly do not want to see the right-hand side of that poster you put up, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. So I want to ask you again, because you have said you will follow the law. Are you committed to a sustained human presence in cislunar space or on the Moon, and that is Federal Statute?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, if that is the law then I am committed to it.

The CHAIRMAN. OK. All right. Let us talk LEO. The International Space Station is managed at Johnson Space Center in Houston, Texas. NASA is planning to retire the ISS by 2030, replacing it with one or more commercially developed space stations, funded partially by NASA and partially by outside customers. Unfortunately, both NASA and commercial replacements are behind schedule. Do you agree that we cannot have a gap period between the ISS and its successor, when there would be zero human U.S. presence in low Earth orbit?

Mr. ISAACMAN. I do agree, Senator. We cannot cede low Earth orbit to the Chinese.

The CHAIRMAN. Now, I would note, in the first Trump administration, there were those in the administration pushing to deorbit the International Space Station prematurely. Given that we have invested over \$100 billion dollars in the station, I think that would be profoundly foolish to give up on that investment as long as it is safe to continue using it. After the administration floated this idea multiple times, the U.S. Senate passed legislation that I authored, 100 to nothing. Every Republican and every senator came through, committing that we would maintain the International Space Station at least until 2030, as long as it is safe and scientifically feasible. Will you commit to follow the law and not deorbit the space station before 2030?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I will absolutely commit to follow the law, and I think we need to maximize the return that taxpayers have invested in that orbital laboratory, use every bit of time we have to crack the code on the space economy, and give Commercial LEO destinations a fighting chance when they inevitably take over, sir.

The CHAIRMAN. Ms. Trusty, it has been 2 years since the FCC lost general auction authority, and 3 years since the last meaningful auction of Spectrum. The Spectrum Pipeline Act, which I introduced with Leader Thune and with Senator Blackburn last year, would restore the FCC's auction authority and would establish a clear pipeline of mid-band spectrum for commercial use.

Ms. Trusty, should Congress restore the FCC's general auction authority with a clear pipeline of mid-band spectrum?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator, and to the extent it accommodates both our economic and national security interests, I believe it can.

The CHAIRMAN. So what would be the benefits of restoring the auction authority with a clear pipeline of mid-band spectrum?

Ms. TRUSTY. Thank you, Senator. I think there would be tremendous economic benefits: job creation, workforce productivity, the expansion of broadband services across the country, I also think it is foundational to our leadership internationally on global technologies.

The CHAIRMAN. As you know, the Department of Defense has been highly resistant to giving up any Spectrum, and for a long time they have given a parade of horrors as to what would occur if any Spectrum moved to the commercial sector. I find that parade of horrors highly incredible and the result of bureaucratic intransigence. It is intransigence that began when General Milley was the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, and DOD chose a strategy of absolutely resisting and refusing to work on freeing up Spectrum.

I recently had a classified briefing, of which you are aware, where I asked two questions to the senior leadership at DOD and also senior leadership of the intelligence community. The first question I asked was: Over 50 countries across the planet have moved substantial portions of the Spectrum in question to the commercial sector, and they are being used presently for commercial purposes, is it DOD's position that our Navy does not operate in the Pacific, that we can only defend Topeka, Kansas, and the rest of the world, our military is unable to defend the United States?

You have unique expertise, having worked both on the Commerce Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee. In your opinion, are we able to defend ourselves across the globe, even in areas where other countries have moved significant portions of Spectrum to be available for the commercial sector?

Ms. TRUSTY. Senator, I appreciate this question. So I will say I am not privy to all of DOD's Spectrum assets and capabilities, but I do think there is an opportunity to move forward on Spectrum policy that protects both our national security and advances our economic interests. And I think what that really requires is, like you said, having classified briefings or briefings in the public, where multiple stakeholder perspectives are represented to challenge positions on various matters. I think it promotes transparency, and it ensures, I think, there is more cohesion on Spectrum matters going forward.

The CHAIRMAN. The second question that I asked DOD that they had a totally insufficient answer to, was what would be the national security consequences, and I would add the economic security consequences, if America loses the race for 6G, and the global telecom architecture is built by Huawei and controlled by the Chinese communists, and every active duty serviceman and woman who has their own cell phone is now communicating over Chinese telecom infrastructure. In your judgment, what would be the economic interest and the national security interest if that occurred, if we lose the race to 6G?

Ms. TRUSTY. Senator, I think—I hope we could all agree that it would be devastating to our economic and national security interest if we had to be reliant on Chinese technologies.

The CHAIRMAN. Senator Cantwell.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am glad I made it back. Ms. Trusty, you both look like you—

The CHAIRMAN. I did filibuster a little bit for you.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I wanted to go back to that virtual multichannel video programming distribution issue at the FCC. I want to understand whether you think the FCC should reexamine and negotiate with online platforms the carriage of local news content. I am concerned that these large platforms, because of the way things have evolved with the affiliates kind of leaving the broadcasters to themselves, and yet they could have some ability.

Right now, I believe local broadcasting is holding us together in a lot of ways. It is a trusted source of content that people believe in. They believe their local news organization. They think that model probably would not exist if the community did not believe in the product, and so we do not want to lose that.

But as the digital age continue to evolve, and these products and services continue to evolve, like YouTube now being a dominant content distributor, then the ability to negotiate directly with them is a big revenue opportunity, if you will. So how do you look at that issue? Do you think that this should be looked at by the FCC and help level the playing field for local journalism?

Ms. TRUSTY. Senator, I do. So you know, to your point about localism, I think it is extremely important. Broadcasters provide vital news and information about social and cultural events, educational

programming, and information in disasters. And I think it is incumbent upon the FCC to work with Congress to ensure we have a modern regulatory framework that reflects the realities of today's media marketplace, that enables broadcasters to better compete against technology companies for viewers, for ad revenues, for programming, all things that they can generate resources by to reinvest into their news gathering operations and increase the availability of local news.

Senator CANTWELL. OK. And what do you think the best way for—I think they opened that case many years ago and then closed—then have not reopened it—or actually, technically, I am not sure about that. You probably know the answer.

Ms. TRUSTY. I think the—

Senator CANTWELL. It is probably like in quasi-land, where you could just easily reopen it; is that right?

Ms. TRUSTY. Well, I think it is still open before the Commission. I am happy to take a look at it, if confirmed. I know that it has been a question on your mind for the past couple of FCC nominations hearings, but I think it is an important issue, Senator. I am happy to take a look at it and ask the questions.

Senator CANTWELL. Right, but you think it should be relooked at, is that—

Ms. TRUSTY. I am certainly happy to take a look at it.

Senator CANTWELL. Yes. Yes. OK. And then I cannot even—OK. I am sure you believe in the First Amendment. I am sure you believe in not weaponizing—making sure that we have a free press, back to this broadband issue. As we have continued to allocate resources and look to the FCC, what do you think the best thing the FCC could do now to put more clarity behind the shortfall in broadband inequities?

Ms. TRUSTY. So I think when we talk about broadband inequities, I think about affordability and adoption. And so with respect to affordability, I think we can promote more competition, embrace more technologies. I think when you have more choice in the marketplace that helps to reduce the cost of the service.

I also think we can focus on removing regulatory barriers that might impede broadband deployment or raise the cost of broadband deployment. If those regulatory barriers are out of the way, I also think that can reduce costs for consumers. Of course, we have the Lifeline program as well. So as the Committee is looking at potential reforms to USF, perhaps there is an opportunity to make adjustments to better target those services to communities in need.

I would also speak to digital literacy programs. I know that the private industry and public interest groups have programs of that sort to help people understand how to maximize the benefit of this technology in their lives.

Senator CANTWELL. And what about the mapping? You know that—I mean, I think we might probably even have shared with you that Microsoft data that they came up with, which can tell you by household who does not have broadband.

Ms. TRUSTY. Absolutely. I think maps are foundational to closing the digital divide. And we have the Broadband Data Act, but of course there is always room for improvement, so if I am confirmed,

I would welcome the opportunity to work with private sector stakeholders, like your own constituents, to better improve the maps.

Senator CANTWELL. Well, I think it could help us elevate a conversation into what are the choices that we could have if we really understood that people at \$40,000 of income probably aren't buying broadband, which means their kids, from a school perspective and other things, might not be getting the access that we want. And then obviously the impact it has on communities.

And then back to the Spectrum. I listened to what you said earlier, even though I have been running in and out at various votes, that you believe that the DOD side of this equation needs to be thought through, that your experience here and then your experience there gave you two different viewpoints on this. How do you think the FCC could best help in resolving this issue?

How do we—let me say it differently. Ten or fifteen years ago, we probably would have said the FCC is the undisputed scientific leader. You know, you would go to your scientist and you would say, this is what they say about interference, right? But now the world has changed, and we have so much more on the technology front. And now we have agencies disputing each other, right; DOD and FAA, or various things.

How do you think you can reassert the FCC's scientific leadership on this issue when so much of the conversation ends up happening, you know, downstairs in a secure briefing room?

Ms. TRUSTY. Sure. I appreciate this question. I think this is probably the heart of the issue that engineers do not agree on interference metrics, among other things. So this is where I think the FCC, NTIA, MOU, memorandum of understanding could probably come into play.

Senator CANTWELL. The one that they just did, or you mean a new one?

Ms. TRUSTY. Maybe a new one.

Senator CANTWELL. OK.

Ms. TRUSTY. That is updated and reflects some of these other considerations. Maybe we have to hire more engineers and technical people to help address this issue, who have experience in both camps as well. So those are, potentially, some ideas to address this.

Senator CANTWELL. And then what about the secure nature of this? I am pretty sure, Mr. Isaacman—it is interesting you are here together. It has made it harder for all of us because there is a lot—there are ample questions to ask both of you. But you are an intersection of a very big, important, what is, not just a communication system but is a vulnerability for national security if we do not get it right. And so I think Mr. Isaacman can tell you how broad he thinks this is going to go in the future, the constellations, not just the LEOs that he is talking about, but how much more of this communication is going to happen through the satellite system and why we have to have this layer of security.

But do you have ideas that you think the FCC could do in listening more to the private sector—a framework by which the private sector and agencies could have more conversations about what the future looks like, and thereby, you know, find some more common ground?

Ms. TRUSTY. So I think this goes back to a conversation we had a little bit earlier about folks having clearances, because much of this information is classified or in a special access program, and it is very sensitive. And so I know that some people in the industry do have clearances, but to the extent we can bring those folks into the same room with Federal agencies to have these robust conversations about what the needs and interests are, what the objectives are, to try to find common ground, I think that is the most important thing here.

Senator CANTWELL. I did not mean to engage you on this, but Mr. Isaacman, do you understand my point? That there is so much yet to still happen here, how do we get the dialogue toward the advancements that could happen when basically everybody needs a national security clearance, and yet at the same time give people an understanding of where we could come together?

Ms. Trusty, you do support the effort, the NTIA's report that DOD and NTIA should look at dynamic spectrum sharing; you do support that?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes. I think we should be investing in dynamic spectrum sharing technologies.

Senator CANTWELL. OK. Mr. Isaacman, any thoughts here?

Mr. ISAACMAN. Senator, I would not want to encroach on my nominee's clear command over the Spectrum here. I would say, at least through the lens of NASA, I am excited about what commercial industry is working on in terms of next-generation technology. My most recent mission to space, we tested out sending an awful lot of data securely over a laser link, a beam of light. I think that is a great way, at least from NASA's perspective, to not add to the demand problem with respect to the Spectrum.

Senator CANTWELL. Um-hum. Well, I do think this will be one of the big challenges we face is how do we—if we want this leadership position, how do we think ahead? How do we get this conversation with the private sector, who is really doing a lot of that thinking, but also get the DOD part of it, and then get the dynamic spectrum part of it done correctly?

OK, well thank you both very much. Mr. Isaacman and Miss Trusty, I am going to ask you a final question required of all nominees: If confirmed, do you pledge to work collaboratively with this committee to provide thorough and timely responses to the Committee's request and appear before the Committee when requested?

Ms. TRUSTY. Yes, Senator,

Mr. ISAACMAN. I do, Senator.

Senator CANTWELL. Thank you. I have letters of support from various organizations for Mr. Isaacman and Ms. Trusty's nomination that I would ask unanimous consent to be inserted into the record.

So, without objection, so ordered.

[The information referred to follows:]



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of Virgin Galactic, I am writing to express our strong support for the confirmation of Jared Isaacman as Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). Mr. Isaacman's exceptional experience in business, aviation, and spaceflight, makes him an outstanding candidate for this crucial position.

Virgin Galactic is a pioneering spaceflight company dedicated to opening space for everyone. As a key player in the commercial spaceflight industry, we recognize the vital role NASA plays in advancing space exploration and technology. Mr. Isaacman's appointment is not only of great interest to our industry but to all those who care about the future of space research and exploration and America's leadership in this critical domain. Virgin Galactic firmly believes that Mr. Isaacman's leadership will bring a fresh, innovative approach to NASA, crucial for maintaining America's leadership in space exploration and technology. His proven track record in the private sector, aviation, and spaceflight positions him uniquely to address the complex challenges at the intersection of space exploration, technology, and commerce.

Mr. Isaacman's impressive career spans multiple sectors directly relevant to NASA's mission. Through his work as an entrepreneur and a leader at various companies, he has showcased his ability to innovate and lead in complex, high-stakes industries directly related to technology, aviation, and national security - all critical components of NASA's multifaceted operations. Moreover, his experience as commander of the Inspiration4 mission, the first all-civilian orbital flight, and his involvement in the Polaris Program highlight his deep understanding of spaceflight operations and the commercial space sector. Mr. Isaacman became the first private citizen to perform a spacewalk during the Polaris Dawn mission, further exemplifying his commitment to advancing human spaceflight capabilities. Through the Inspiration4 mission, over \$240 million was raised for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. This included a personal pledge of \$125 million from Isaacman himself. His commitment to philanthropy extends beyond Inspiration4, as evidenced by his continued support through the Polaris Dawn mission. These substantial contributions demonstrate his dedication to using space exploration for the benefit of humanity, aligning well with NASA's mission to lead an innovative and sustainable program of exploration that enables human expansion across the solar system and brings new knowledge and opportunities back to Earth.

We believe Mr. Isaacman's expertise in business, aviation, and spaceflight, will be invaluable in addressing the challenges and opportunities facing NASA and the broader space industry. His firsthand experience as a commercial astronaut provides him with unique insights into the needs and potential of human spaceflight. This knowledge will be crucial in shaping policies that support the growth of commercial space activities while advancing NASA's core missions.

We look forward to working with Mr. Isaacman and NASA to advance policies that promote innovation, foster economic growth in the space sector, and strengthen America's position as a global leader in space exploration. We strongly urge his swift confirmation as NASA Administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mike P. Moses".

Mike Moses  
President  
Virgin Galactic

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

KAY IVEY  
GOVERNOR



STATE CAPITOL  
MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130

(334) 242-7100  
FAX: (334) 242-3282

STATE OF ALABAMA

March 12, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
& Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science,  
& Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

Please accept this letter as a statement of my support for President Trump's nominee, Mr. Jared Isaacman, to be confirmed as NASA Administrator. As a space explorer, entrepreneurial leader, and strong advocate for STEM education, Mr. Isaacman is an exceptional selection for this critical role.

As you know, the competition for space dominance is at an all-time high, and its symbolic significance rivals that of the Cold War Era. Now, with China's global and cosmic ambitions, it is imperative that the United States of America maintain our leadership in space exploration, technological innovation, and national security. For this reason, I believe it is as important as ever for NASA to be led by a strategic and assertive administrator.

Alabama and space innovation have been bonded since the term "Space Race" entered the global lexicon. In fact, the Marshall Space Flight Center in Huntsville, Alabama, has been a cornerstone of NASA achievement for more than sixty years. Moreover, Alabama's U.S. Space & Rocket Center and Space Camp is the largest and longest running STEM camp in the world. Mr. Isaacman is one of more than 1 million Space Camp alumni, which include 16 flown astronauts. Today, Mr. Isaacman continues to be a transformational supporter of the Rocket Center through his funding of the Inspiration4 Skills Training Center, which will be completed later this year.

As Governor, I take seriously Alabama's role in enhancing our national security. This includes supporting NASA and our country's defense, aerospace, and scientific sectors—as well as providing pivotal education and STEM-introduction opportunities for the next generation of American leaders. Mr. Isaacman shares these steadfast commitments, he possesses uniquely-qualifying expertise, and he has a tested record of innovative leadership. To this end, it is my hope that you will prioritize Mr. Isaacman's committee confirmation hearing.

Sincerely,

Kay Ivey  
Governor



April 7, 2024

Senator Ted Cruz, Chair  
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

I write on behalf of the Aircraft Owners and Pilots Association (AOPA) in strong support of the confirmation of Mr. Jared Isaacman as Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Mr. Isaacman possesses exceptional leadership, innovative vision, and deep commitment to advancing the goals of space exploration and science. His unique ability to drive progress in complex environments with the rare combination of technical expertise and strategic insight would make him an outstanding leader of NASA.

One of the hallmarks of Mr. Isaacman's leadership is his unwavering dedication to fostering innovation. As a civilian astronaut successfully commanding two space missions, he has demonstrated the ability to inspire teams to push the boundaries of technology and science. Whether overseeing cutting-edge research or leading efforts to launch new space missions, he has always prioritized collaboration and long-term vision.

In September 2021, Mr. Isaacman commanded the first private all-civilian spaceflight. The mission raised significant funds for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In September 2024, Mr. Isaacman commanded another mission wherein he and his crew conducted the first-ever private spacewalk and completed experiments that will be useful to NASA as it prepares for future space exploration. For these significant achievements and his ability to inspire a love of flight to others, AOPA recently bestowed the esteemed R.A. "Bob" Hoover Trophy to Mr. Isaacman.

Mr. Isaacman also brings a deep commitment to public service and a passion for inspiring the next generation of scientists, engineers, and explorers. He understands the significance of NASA's work not only to the scientific community but also to the American public, and I am confident he will continue to uphold NASA's reputation as a beacon of discovery and innovation.

Regards,



Darren Pleasance  
President and CEO



April 7, 2025

Ranking Member Chris Van Hollen  
730 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Senator Angela Alsobrooks  
SD-B40E Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Ranking Member Van Hollen and Senator Alsobrooks:

I am writing to convey my full support for the confirmation of Mr. Jared Isaacman as Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

I've spent my 35-year career working across the U.S. space program as a NASA civil servant, a faculty member at Georgia Tech, CU Boulder, Caltech, and Johns Hopkins, and as the NASA Chief Technologist in 2010 and 2011. I also led teams at NASA JPL before joining APL.

Our nation needs a strong NASA, and that requires decisive and innovative leadership. Jared Isaacman will bring these qualities to the Agency. He possesses deep experience across aeronautics and space, has worked with NASA to push humanity's boundaries outward, and understands that U.S. space leadership is of paramount importance to our Nation today.

Jared is rational and pragmatic. He cares deeply about the balanced, multi-mission nature of the Agency and its talented people. Jared bravely led two spaceflight missions himself and conducted the first-ever spacewalk by a private astronaut. NASA will benefit greatly from Jared's leadership. In my recent conversations with Jared, I am confident he has what it takes to lead NASA during this important time, as the Nation looks to return to the Moon, go to Mars, and execute first-of-a-kind space science missions that are crucial to the science and technology community across the state of Maryland.

I ask that you meet with Jared and support him in the upcoming confirmation process in the Senate. NASA is in need of Jared's leadership to achieve its ambitious goals this decade, and I know he is the right person to lead the Agency at this time.

The U.S. space program should make the impossible, possible, and I look forward to working with both of you and Jared in achieving these goals while growing Maryland's critical role in reaching new heights for the Nation. Thank you for taking the time to consider this request.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'R. Braun'.

Robert D. Braun  
Head, Space Exploration Sector

cc: Chairman Ted Cruz  
Ranking Member Maria Cantwell

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader, United States Senate  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 511  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader, United States Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building, Room 322  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation  
Dirksen Senate Office Building, Room 554  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
Russell Senate Office Building, Room 254  
Washington, DC 20510

**Re: Nomination Endorsement for NASA Administrator**

We, the undersigned collective of aerospace technology companies and venture firms, write to express our strong and unified support for Jared Isaacman's nomination to serve as the next Administrator of NASA. As those who share his vision of innovation in our respective fields, we believe Mr. Isaacman's entrepreneurial spirit, leadership acumen, and deep understanding of the space economy make him an exceptional candidate to lead NASA into its next chapter.

Mr. Isaacman's remarkable success as a space entrepreneur uniquely positions him to foster collaboration between NASA and the burgeoning commercial space sector, particularly benefiting smaller, agile tech companies pushing the boundaries of how we approach aerospace. His track record demonstrates his capability to recognize the transformative potential of innovation from diverse industry participants, providing significant opportunities for growth and collaboration with NASA.

Under Jared Isaacman's leadership, NASA would be poised to create new and impactful partnerships, embracing the advancements developed by emerging technology enterprises and venture firms. His entrepreneurial experience has consistently shown his aptitude for leveraging cutting-edge technology and his vision for reimagining the future of space exploration. By championing collaboration with smaller technology firms, he will foster an ecosystem that accelerates innovation, expands commercial opportunities, and advances NASA's mission.

Beyond his business accomplishments, Mr. Isaacman also exhibits a profound appreciation for the importance of science and discovery. His commitment to scientific advancement aligns closely with the goals of our community—prioritizing exploration and discovery to ensure that the U.S. remains at the forefront of space technology and scientific achievement.

Given his extensive experience in commercial aerospace, combined with his demonstrated ability to inspire and lead innovative collaborations, Jared Isaacman represents precisely the type of leadership NASA needs in this critical era.

We enthusiastically endorse Mr. Isaacman's nomination and believe wholeheartedly that, if confirmed, he will lead NASA effectively, strengthening its partnership with the entire spectrum of American technological innovation and advancing the frontier of space exploration for generations to come.

Sincerely,

Zak Kukoff, Chair, Tech Practice, Lewis-Burke Associates

Devin Bryant, Space Lead, Lewis-Burke Associates

David Cowan, Managing Partner, Bessemer Venture Partners

Delian Asparouhov, Co-Founder and President, Varda Space Industries; Partner, Founders Fund

Blake Scholl, Founder and CEO, Boom Aerospace

John Gedmark, Founder and CEO, Astranis

Chris Power, CEO, Hadrian

Austin Bishop, CEO, New American Industrial Alliance

Patrick Blumenthal, Founder, Anomaly Fund

Adam Grosser, Chairman, UP Partners

Saurav Shroff, Co-Founder, Starpath

Xander Oltmann, General Partner, Commodity Capital

Max Haot, CEO, Vast Space

Jonathan Lacoste, General Partner, Space VC

Andy Lapsa, Founder and CEO, Stoke Space

Jason Kim, CEO, Firefly Aerospace

AJ Piplica, Founder and CEO, Hermeus

Bradley Cheetham, CEO, Advanced Space

Jake Poliskin, Founding Partner, Shorewind Capital

Yash Shevde, Founder, Ursa Bio

Solange Massa, CEO, Ecoatoms

Casey Handmer, Founder, Terraform Industries

James Barlia, Executive Director, Station DC

Ashley Pilipiszyn, Founder and CEO, BESXAR



March 21, 2025

Chairman Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
428 Hart Senate Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the Commercial Space Federation (CSF), the voice of the commercial space industry, I am writing to convey CSF's support for the confirmation of Mr. Jared Isaacman as Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

NASA's activities and achievements over the next four years are critical to maintaining American leadership in space. The Artemis program will return U.S. astronauts to the Moon and begin to build a sustained U.S.-led presence in cislunar space and beyond. NASA will partner with industry to build new commercial low-Earth orbit destinations that will host crew, research, and economic activity after the retirement of the International Space Station. NASA science and technology efforts will require new strategies to preserve American leadership in these disciplines and to build the technical knowledge and skills required for U.S. competitiveness.

Success across these endeavors isn't just 'nice to have'. Success across America's civil space programs is imperative for national posture, technological superiority, and economic dominance. These imperatives come at a time when NASA is facing potentially existential challenges like resource constraints, aging facilities, increased red-tape, and formidable geopolitical competition. Strong, decisive, and inspired leadership at NASA, in partnership with Congress, is required to take on these challenges and maintain United States superiority in space.

With decades of experience as an entrepreneur, business leader, and commercial space pioneer, Mr. Isaacman is ideally suited to lead NASA at this critical time in the agency's history. Mr. Isaacman has built multiple successful businesses, experience that will serve him well to lead a multi-billion-dollar agency with tens of thousands of employees and contractors. His businesses have worked with the federal government, giving him insight into how doing business

1444 I Street, NW, #410, Washington, DC 20005

[www.commercialspace.org](http://www.commercialspace.org)



with the government may be improved and streamlined to enhance outcomes for the American people. As a commercial space pioneer, Mr. Isaacman understands that reaching NASA's space exploration and scientific research goals will require fully leveraging the strength of the U.S. commercial space industry. Finally, Mr. Isaacman's two commercial spaceflights, including the first non-government spacewalk, give him insight into the rigors of human spaceflight and the absolute imperative of safety.

CSF looks forward to working with Mr. Isaacman to ensure that the United States remains the global leader in space. Thank you for your consideration of this letter in support of Jared Isaacman's confirmation as the Administrator of NASA.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "D. Cavossa".

Dave Cavossa  
President  
Commercial Space Federation

March 14, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

We, the undersigned former NASA Astronauts, write to express our support for the confirmation of Jared Isaacman as the next Administrator of NASA.

Having dedicated our careers and lives to support NASA and space exploration, we are deeply concerned about the Agency's future. It is critical that NASA maintains its position as the preeminent space development organization. Our nation is at a turning point where we face international competition from China, we have the opportunity to promote international cooperation with our partner nations, and we are witnessing radical change in the commercial space sector. The stakes in selecting the next NASA Administrator could not be higher.

We believe that Jared Isaacman is uniquely qualified to lead NASA at this critical juncture. As an entrepreneur, pilot, and having commanded two groundbreaking space missions, he brings credibility and capability to make a difference now. Jared will be able to apply his vision and business acumen to make NASA a continued leader and fulfill its mission of exploration, inspiration, and discovery while expanding commercial opportunities that benefit all Americans. Jared has a genuine passion for space exploration and will bring a renewed energy and sense of purpose to NASA.

NASA has a difficult mission and therefore requires steady leadership. We urge the Senate Commerce Committee to hold Mr. Isaacman's confirmation hearing as soon as practical.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring NASA has the vision, expertise, and leadership necessary to advance America's space ambitions.

Sincerely,

Robert Cabana  
Leroy Chiao  
Ken Cockrell  
Cady Coleman  
Drew Feustel  
Jack Fischer  
Mike Foreman  
Ron Garan  
John Grunsfeld  
Ken Ham  
Brent Jett  
Scott Kelly  
Shane Kimbrough  
Michael Lopez-Alegria

Ed Lu  
Leland Melvin  
Dottie Metcalf-Lindenburger  
Karen Nyberg  
Steve Oswald  
William Readdy  
Garrett Reisman  
Stephen Robinson  
Rusty Schweickart  
Nicole Stott  
Steven Swanson  
Jim Voss  
Peggy Whitson  
George Zamka



March 4, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

We, the undersigned Republican governors, write to express our strong support for the swift confirmation of Jared Isaacman as the next Administrator of NASA.

At a time when the global space race is accelerating, America faces an urgent challenge in maintaining its leadership in space exploration, technological innovation, and national security – **especially in the face of China’s rapidly advancing space program. The United States cannot afford to fall behind in this new era of strategic competition. Strong, decisive leadership at NASA is essential to ensuring we remain at the forefront of scientific discovery, space commerce, and human exploration beyond Earth’s orbit.**

Jared Isaacman is uniquely qualified to lead NASA at this critical juncture. A visionary entrepreneur, accomplished pilot, and pioneer of private spaceflight, he has a proven track record of turning ambitious goals into reality. He commanded multiple historic space missions and founded a thriving aerospace enterprise, consistently demonstrating an unparalleled ability to drive bold initiatives, cultivate public-private partnerships, and deliver tangible results. His **leadership will not only strengthen NASA’s core programs but also inspire the next generation of American explorers and innovators.**

Few individuals are better equipped with the technical expertise and strategic vision necessary to lead NASA into the future. Mr. Isaacman understands the complex landscape of modern space **exploration and the importance of aligning NASA’s efforts with our national economic and security priorities.** Under his leadership, NASA will be well-positioned to push the boundaries of exploration while expanding commercial opportunities that benefit all Americans.

The absence of a confirmed NASA Administrator delays critical progress at a time when we can least afford it. Given the stakes, we urge the Senate Commerce Committee to prioritize and

March 2025  
Page 2 of 2

expedite Mr. Isaacman's confirmation hearing. America's competitive edge in space depends on having the right leader at the helm—and Jared Isaacman is that leader.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. We appreciate your commitment to ensuring NASA has the vision, expertise, and leadership necessary to advance America's space ambitions.

Sincerely,



Governor Bill Lee  
State of Tennessee



Governor Sarah Sanders  
State of Arkansas



Governor Ron DeSantis  
State of Florida



Governor Brian Kemp  
State of Georgia



Governor Mike Kehoe  
State of Missouri



Governor Kevin Stitt  
State of Oklahoma



Governor Greg Abbott  
State of Texas

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
United States Senate Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

I write with strong support for quick confirmation of Jared Isaacman as next NASA Administrator. As a Business Leader, Pilot, American SpaceX Astronaut he is the perfect leader to lead NASA to allow American Success in the New Space Race and to beat the Chinese before they dominate the globe they are a major threat to world peace.

I write as an American Citizen in Texas where the SpaceX Starship Program has launched eight total times with massive success and improvement each time. I've been to Starbase before the First Launch and there for the last Seven out of Eight Launches. In a stunning feat of engineer this largest rocket ever flown, the Booster has Relanded three times back on the Launch Tower Arms. - This Starship Rocket according to Elon Musk will be the workhorse successfully taking dozens and hundreds of people to the Moon and then to Mars.

Nominee Isaacman has flown for American SpaceX as a private astronaut. American SpaceX has replaced the Space Shuttle and America's ability to send humans to Space with the Falcon 9 and Dragon Capsule. SpaceX has flown 54 Humans to Orbit in its short history of success.

SpaceX Falcon 9 Rocket has flown 472 times and has relanded 428 times! One Booster has re-landed 25 times with 26 total flights like a plane is re-used not thrown away!

Elon Musk has made his life's work to make Human Life Multiplanetary because we are facing an inevitable extinction event if we are stuck here sadly fighting wars among ourselves on Earth. We must save this planet and we finally can have: Life Must Forever Go Beyond Earth..

Elon is right we must make life Forever Beyond Earth so the "Light of Consciousness" may continue forever. Jared will help lead us beyond earth. The children and next generation must be inspired to know we are on the Moon, Mars and Among the Stars.

Thank you – "Ad Astra (to the Stars)"!

Tim F. Lussier, M.A. - San Antonio, Texas - United States of America - Planet Earth



March 27, 2025

Senator Ted Cruz  
Chair  
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

I write on behalf of the National Business Aviation Association's (NBAA) 11,000 members in support of the confirmation of Jared Isaacman as Administrator of National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

Mr. Isaacman is exceptionally qualified to lead NASA into the future of space exploration. As a renowned civilian astronaut, accomplished aviator, entrepreneur and philanthropist, Mr. Isaacman is an aerospace trailblazer. He has successfully commanded two space missions, including the world's first all-civilian mission to orbit. He has also developed and led organizations in finance and aerospace. He accomplished all of this while championing humanitarian causes and raising hundreds of millions for charities - a feat that NBAA recognized in 2023 by bestowing upon Mr. Isaacman its highest honor, the Meritorious Service to Aviation Award. These exemplary achievements make Mr. Isaacman particularly well-suited to lead NASA on its mission to explore the unknown in air and space, innovate for the benefit of humanity, and inspire the world through discovery.

Mr. Isaacman's experience at the intersection of aviation, space and technology will be invaluable in supporting NASA's mission and advancing the aerospace sector. This experience is especially important given NASA's collaboration with the FAA on safety and technology initiatives, such as the confidential, voluntary, non-punitive Aviation Safety Reporting System, integrating drones into the national airspace through unmanned aircraft traffic management system, and autonomous vehicle test flights. NASA research provides the FAA with data that will enable the safe integration of advanced air mobility, like electric air taxis and drones, into the national airspace.

Founded in 1947 and based in Washington, DC, NBAA is the leading organization for companies that rely on general aviation aircraft to help make their businesses more efficient, productive and successful. The association provides more than 100 products and services to the business aviation community, including cutting-edge innovations in aerospace technologies.

As NASA prepares for the next phase of innovation and space exploration, Mr. Isaacman stands ready to take the helm. We urge the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation and the U.S. Senate to confirm Mr. Isaacman's nomination as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ed Bolen', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Ed Bolen  
President & CEO  
National Business Aviation Association



April 9, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
254 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science,  
and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
254 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We write to express our strong support for the nomination of Jared Isaacman to serve as the next Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA). As a visionary entrepreneur and executive, Mr. Isaacman has consistently demonstrated the leadership and forward-thinking that would enable him to lead NASA into the future as we push to expand our understanding of the Earth and explore our solar system.

Jared Isaacman's operational leadership uniquely positions him to guide NASA into a new era of growth and opportunity. His deep understanding of the commercial space sector will help him to foster NASA's collaboration with the rapidly evolving private space industry, while maintaining the expertise and capabilities of NASA's workforce.

If appointed Administrator, Mr. Isaacman will drive innovation in NASA's collaborations across the space ecosystem. He will leverage technology and reimagine space exploration by capitalizing on the many advancements of our nation's commercial space sector. His commitment to commercial space will redefine NASA's partnerships, advance national space priorities, and get more missions into space faster, strengthening U.S. leadership.

Further, Mr. Isaacman's deep appreciation of science will help advance NASA's role in maintaining U.S. leadership with international partners over China in cutting edge new scientific discoveries. He understands we need to create opportunities for the U.S. to remain at the forefront of human space exploration while simultaneously expanding humanity's knowledge through scientific discovery. Importantly, Mr. Isaacman values the role of scientific discovery to improve our understanding and management of disasters like wildfires and flooding, as well as border security, agriculture, and much more.

Jared Isaacman's proven track record as an astronaut, his understanding of commercial space capabilities, and his executive experience will help him lead NASA through the next phase of exploration, scientific discovery, and innovation.

+

We wholeheartedly support his nomination and strongly believe that, if confirmed, Mr. Isaacman will advance our Nation's space priorities and continue NASA's long history of scientific exploration and discovery. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Will Marshall  
Co-Founder and Chief Executive Officer  
Planet Labs PBC



Robbie Schingler  
Co-Founder and Chief Strategy Officer  
Planet Labs PBC



555 E. Pikes Peak Ave. #120  
Colorado Springs, CO 80920  
WWW.USSFA.ORG

February 20, 2025

Chairman Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the Space Force Association (SFA), the only private non-profit organization solely dedicated to advocating for the U.S. Space Force, I strongly support the swift confirmation of Mr. Jared Isaacman as NASA Administrator.

A private astronaut and accomplished entrepreneur, Mr. Isaacman has deep respect for Guardians and a firsthand understanding of their mission. His leadership is essential to NASA's ability to advance scientific exploration, drive innovation, strengthen national security partnerships, and expand commercial space opportunities. With decades experience spanning government contracting and publicly traded enterprises, he is uniquely positioned to ensure the United States remains the global leader in space.

As space becomes increasingly contested by adversaries like China and Russia, Mr. Isaacman's **timely confirmation** is critical to lead NASA at the nexus of civil space exploration, military security, and economic growth. SFA is confident he will champion the commercial space sector by fostering innovation in spaceflight and integrating commercial services into NASA's missions. His confirmation is necessary to provide strategic direction before the FY26 budget passback, ensuring alignment on key civil space programs that drive American ingenuity.

Thank you for your consideration of this letter in support of Mr. Jared Isaacman's confirmation as the NASA Administrator.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bill Woolf". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Bill Woolf  
CEO, President & Founder, Space Force Association  
Colonel, USAF (Ret.)  
(702) 232-4175

---

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April 7, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science  
and Transportation  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

We write in strong support of Olivia Trusty's nomination to serve as a Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Ms. Trusty's extensive work in Congress, including in senior-level positions, has given her a deep understanding of the Commission's complex policy, regulatory, and technological issues.

Ms. Trusty brings both the strategic insight and practical experience needed to help the FCC navigate its critical mission of advancing broadband deployment, maintaining competitive markets, and ensuring all consumers benefit from our innovative spectrum policies.

We look forward to working with Ms. Trusty, Chairman Carr, and the full Commission to promote policies that encourage the investments needed to expand broadband access to all Americans. Her leadership will be instrumental in ensuring our digital economy continues to grow, adapt, and serve the needs of every community.

Sincerely,

Michael K. Powell  
President & CEO  
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

USTELECOM | THE BROADBAND ASSOCIATION

JONATHAN SPALTER  
President and Chief Executive Officer

April 8, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman  
Senate Commerce Committee  
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Senate Commerce Committee  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of USTelecom – The Broadband Association, I am pleased to submit this letter in strong support of the nomination of Olivia Trusty as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission. USTelecom represents America's innovative broadband industry which is committed to ensuring that all Americans have access to reliable, high-speed connectivity. We believe Ms. Trusty's experience demonstrates a commitment to promoting policies that advance broadband investment and competition, making her an excellent candidate for this critical role.

As our industry continues to expand broadband access and enhance network capacity, the FCC must adopt policies that encourage investment and competition in the communications marketplace. Ms. Trusty's leadership can help advance much-needed reforms to streamline broadband deployment and facilitate more efficient use of public and private broadband investments.

Furthermore, regulatory efficiency is essential to accelerating broadband deployment by eliminating outdated obligations, reducing state and local barriers, and ensuring a predictable policy environment that fosters investment in next-generation infrastructure. Ms. Trusty's focus on regulatory certainty and efficiency will be instrumental in addressing these challenges and accelerating deployment efforts.

The FCC plays a pivotal role in shaping the future of broadband policy, and Ms. Trusty's expertise and leadership will be constructive in advancing policies that promote investment, innovation, and competition. Her deep understanding of the communications marketplace and commitment to pragmatic, pro-investment policies will help us all achieve our shared goal of connecting all Americans to modern broadband networks.

For these reasons, USTelecom strongly supports the confirmation of Olivia Trusty as FCC Commissioner. We urge the Senate to act swiftly on her nomination to ensure continued progress in bridging the digital divide and promoting a dynamic broadband ecosystem that benefits consumers, businesses, and communities across the country.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Spalter



AMERICA'S  
COMMUNICATIONS  
ASSOCIATION  
#ACAConnects

Grant Spellmeyer, President and CEO  
Direct Dial: 202-290-0233  
E-Mail: [gspellmeyer@acaconnects.org](mailto:gspellmeyer@acaconnects.org)

March 20, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chair, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
554 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee  
254 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC, 20510

Dear Chair Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of ACA Connects: America's Communication Association, I write in support of Olivia Trusty's nomination to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Ms. Trusty has an extensive record of accomplishments as a public servant. She has more than a decade of experience in telecommunications policy and has served as a trusted advisor to top policymakers in the House and Senate. Notably, her nomination has received bipartisan applause from congressional leaders, federal regulators, and industry officials. She will make a great addition to the leadership at the FCC, which has many critical issues on its agenda.

ACA Connects and all our Members look forward to working with her and Chairman Brendan Carr to cut red tape, grow the economy in rural communities, and further encourage America's small and independent broadband providers to invest in affordable, high-performance broadband networks.

ACA Connects thanks you for your consideration of Olivia Trusty through the confirmation process. We urge the full Committee and the Senate to act promptly to confirm her.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Grant Spellmeyer'.

Grant Spellmeyer  
President & CEO

.....  
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401 BRKICH WAY \* SUITE 6 \* BEAVER, PA 15009  
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February 28, 2025

Chairman Ted Cruz  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation  
Dirksen Senate Office Building 554  
Washington, DC 20510

Ranking Member Maria Cantwell  
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation  
Russell Senate Office Building 254  
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Confirm Olivia Trusty to the FCC

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

**President Trump's nomination of Olivia Trusty to serve as the newest member of the Federal Communications Commission will soon come before the Commerce Committee for your consideration. Given her long career on Capitol Hill and well-established expertise, Digital Liberty strongly supports the nomination of Olivia Trusty to serve on the FCC.**

The FCC is responsible for overseeing America's vast communications infrastructure, including everything from broadband internet to broadcast television and radio. This council of five is one of the most powerful bodies in the US government – the president and the Senate must get it right when nominating and confirming commissioners.

**With Olivia Trusty's nomination, President Trump is getting it right.** There are few, if any, better candidates than Ms. Trusty.

I met Olivia Trusty as a young Senate staffer while sitting in on a staff meeting between her and our office's counsel on broadband expansion. I was immediately struck by her professionalism and deep knowledge of telecom issues. While I never got to know her extremely well, through occasional meetings and Zoom calls over the next couple of years, I remained impressed with her ability and mastery of policy.

In addition to her professional capability, her extensive background makes her undoubtedly qualified to manage the challenges facing the FCC. During her tenure as Policy Director for the Senate Commerce Committee, she shaped policies that promote broadband expansion, consumer protection, and the creation of a competitive digital marketplace.

Following Senator Wicker as he moved to Chairman of the Armed Services Committee, Ms. Trusty proved her ability to manage complex national security issues with diverse stakeholders, from public interest groups to industry leaders to lawmakers. As the United States faces growing threats to communication networks, having an FCC Commissioner who understands the nuances



of national security is essential. Her leadership would ensure that America maintains its secure communications systems while fostering an environment of innovation and economic growth.

Olivia Trusty is the kind of commissioner the FCC ought to have – someone who understands the challenges of telecommunication policy, national security, and cybersecurity. The Senate Commerce Committee and the U.S. Senate should confirm Olivia Trusty so that the FCC and the American people can profit from her expertise.

Sincerely,

James Erwin  
Executive Director  
Digital Liberty

The Honorable John Thune  
Majority Leader, US Senate  
Dirksen Senate Office Building,  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader, US Senate  
Hart Senate Office Building,  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman, Senate Committee on Commerce,  
Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on  
Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 205

**Re: Nomination Endorsement of Olivia Trusty for Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission**

February 26, 2025

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

We, the undersigned organizations and individuals committed to advocating for policies that close the digital divide and promote innovation, write to express our strong support for Olivia Trusty's nomination as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission.

Olivia's extensive experience in public service, including her tenure on the Senate Commerce Committee and the Senate Armed Services Committee, uniquely positions her to navigate the complex landscape of telecommunications regulation and national security considerations.

During her time as Policy Director for the Senate Commerce Committee, Olivia played a pivotal role in shaping policies that promote broadband expansion, consumer protection, and an enabling competitive digital marketplace. Her work in this capacity has ensured that communications policies serve the public interest while also fostering innovation and economic growth. Additionally, her recent experience on the Senate Armed Services Committee has provided her with a critical understanding of cybersecurity challenges and the intersection of national security and telecommunications infrastructure.

Olivia's ability to bridge policy gaps between industry stakeholders, lawmakers, and public interest groups from across the political aisle demonstrates her commitment to balanced and thoughtful regulatory oversight. Her leadership will be instrumental in advancing policies that support improving connectivity, protect consumers, strengthen national security, and bolster the broadband workforce.

We urge the Senate Commerce Committee and U.S. Senate to expedite Trusty's confirmation so that the Federal Communications Commission and American people can benefit from her expertise as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

Nathan Leamer  
Executive Director  
Digital First Project

Harold Furchtgott-Roth  
Senior Fellow and Director  
Center for the Economics of the Internet  
Hudson Institute

Grover Norquist  
President  
Americans For Tax Reform

Evan Swarztrauber  
Senior Fellow  
Foundation For American Innovation

Tom Hebert  
Executive Director  
Open Competition Center

James Erwin  
Executive Director  
Digital Liberty

Mike O'Rielly  
Senior Fellow  
Free State Foundation

David Williams  
President  
Taxpayers Protection Alliance

Ashley Baker  
Executive Director  
Committee for Justice

Yaël Ossowski  
Deputy Director  
Consumer Choice Center

Gerard Scimeca  
Chairman  
Consumer Action for a Strong Economy

Jeff Mazzella  
President  
Center For Individual Freedom

March 4, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

As leading representatives of America's technology and telecommunications industries, we write to express our strong support for the swift confirmation of Arielle Roth as Administrator of the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and Olivia Trusty as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Their expertise and leadership are vital to advancing our nation's communications infrastructure and ensuring that the United States remains the global leader in innovation.

Arielle Roth brings extensive experience in technology and telecommunications policy, making her exceptionally qualified to lead the NTIA. Her deep understanding of spectrum management, broadband deployment, and technology policy will be instrumental in shaping a communications landscape that accelerates investment, promotes growth, and enables the next generation of breakthroughs.

Olivia Trusty has significant expertise, with over a decade of service on Capitol Hill including her role as policy director for the Senate Commerce Committee, possesses a comprehensive grasp of communications and technology issues. Her commitment to fostering an environment that prioritizes innovation and encourages technological progress aligns with the FCC's essential role in driving America's digital future.

In today's rapidly evolving digital economy, the NTIA and FCC must have experienced leadership to navigate complex policy challenges and support the deployment of cutting-edge communications infrastructure. The confirmations of Ms. Roth and Ms. Trusty will provide the stability and strategic direction needed to advance policies that strengthen America's position in the global technology landscape.

We commend President Trump for these outstanding nominations and urge the Senate

to proceed swiftly with their confirmations, so that these highly qualified individuals can get to work on behalf of the American people.

Thank you for your leadership and attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

ACT | The App Association  
Alliance for Telecommunications Industry Solutions  
CEDIA  
Consumer Technology Association  
CTIA – The Wireless Association  
GPS Innovation Alliance  
INCOMPAS  
Internet Infrastructure Coalition  
Information Technology Industry Council  
Institute for Education  
USTelecom  
TechNet  
Wireless Infrastructure Association  
XR Association



The App Association

April 9, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, District of Columbia 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

On behalf of ACT | The App Association's member companies, we support the nomination of Olivia Trusty as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Based on her track record as a policy expert and leader on Capitol Hill, we believe Ms. Trusty is highly qualified to advance the FCC's mission as Commissioner.

As a key staffer for then-Chairman Roger Wicker, Ms. Trusty organized a hearing highlighting the app economy in 2018. This was a crucial juncture for mobile software, as federal statutes and FCC policies were poised to interfere with the deployment of 5G and wireline broadband networks on which App Association members build. The App Association and Chairman Wicker supported efforts to clear the way for these networks. In particular, we opposed the reclassification of broadband services as subject to Title II of the Communications Act, which would have treated internet services as public utilities, dampening their development. Subsequently, as policy director for the Subcommittee on Manufacturing, Trade, and Consumer Protection, Ms. Trusty led comprehensive privacy bill negotiations, making major strides toward a compromise federal framework. The current privacy policy environment, including state comprehensive laws, would arguably be far less manageable for small businesses in the app economy without Ms. Trusty's leadership on this issue.

As an FCC Commissioner, we believe Ms. Trusty will bring a principled approach to policies within the FCC's remit, with a keen focus on limiting the unintended consequences of government intervention. We urge the Committee to recommend her swift confirmation as FCC Commissioner.

Sincerely,

Morgan Reed

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Morgan Reed".

President

ACT | The App Association



## International Association of Fire Chiefs

8251 Greensboro Drive, Suite 650 • McLean, VA 22102  
Tel: 703.273.0911 • IAFC.org

April 2, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman  
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science & Transportation  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

On behalf of the approximately 11,000 members of the International Association of Fire Chiefs (IAFC), I ask that you support President Trump's nomination of Ms. Olivia Trusty as Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). Ms. Trusty has historically been a supporter of public safety, and we are confident that she will work to strengthen communications for all first responders.

Ms. Trusty's experience has provided her with the traits necessary to succeed as Commissioner of the FCC. During her time at the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation, Ms. Trusty worked to protect public safety communications on the T-Band (470 MHz-512 MHz). In 2019, the Government Accountability Office released a report titled: [Emergency Communications: Required Auction of Public Safety Spectrum Could Harm First Responder Capabilities](#). This report found that 11 different major metropolitan areas would be affected if the T-Band was auctioned off. These cities utilized this radio spectrum for mission critical communications, such as dispatching 911 calls. \$5-6 billion was saved by not having to relocate public safety users of the T-Band.

Ms. Trusty always was an honest broker, who worked fairly to consider the critical needs of public safety. She helped to work through the issues surrounding the T-Band to ensure that mission critical public safety communications were protected.

We know that Ms. Trusty will ensure first responders have the tools they need to do their jobs. For that, I ask that you support President Trump's nomination of Ms. Trusty to serve as Commissioner of the FCC. Ms. Trusty has the ability to work with all parties while ensuring the interests of public safety are protected.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Josh Waldo".

Fire Chief Josh Waldo, CFO, EFO  
IAFC President and Board Chair 2024 – 2025

:sa



April 8, 2025

The Honorable Ted Cruz  
Chairman  
354 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Ranking Member  
511 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell,

WISPA—*Broadband Without Boundaries* strongly supports Olivia Trusty's confirmation as a Commissioner of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). The FCC's mission is crucial to maintaining our nation's global competitiveness, and Ms. Trusty is an excellent choice for this role. Her extensive experience demonstrates exceptional leadership and a commitment to transforming the communications landscape in our country, ensuring that all Americans have access to fast, affordable, and reliable broadband service.

WISPA represents the interests of hundreds of small and medium-sized internet service providers and vendors. Our members deliver essential broadband connectivity to approximately 10 million consumers, businesses, industrial users, tribal interests, first responders, and community anchor institutions—often in areas where other providers have chosen not to invest. Our members utilize unlicensed, shared, and exclusive-use licensed spectrum across low-band, mid-band, and high-band frequencies to provide dependable broadband service. They also implement hybrid deployments that combine fiber and fixed wireless technologies. In many rural and remote areas, WISPA members are the only terrestrial source of fixed broadband access. Even where other broadband options are available, our members provide a community-driven alternative that enhances competition, lowers costs, and improves the quality of broadband services.

Ms. Trusty has been at the forefront of many significant legislative efforts to affect the wireless industry over the past decade, and her unique experience means she will bring an understanding of the spectrum challenges our country faces. Ms. Trusty has consistently demonstrated her dedication to advancing U.S. economic growth and technological leadership. She has played a vital role in shaping policies that address spectrum demand, bridge the digital divide, and tackle other critical issues necessary for fostering innovation in the broadband marketplace. Her expertise in navigating complex regulatory



landscapes equips her to lead initiatives that drive innovation and enhance economic competitiveness.

We are confident that Ms. Trusty will bring integrity and visionary leadership to the FCC. We urge prompt confirmation and stand ready to support her in her mission to ensure all Americans have broadband access and can fully engage in our economy.

Sincerely,

David Zumwalt  
President and CEO  
WISPA – *Broadband Without Boundaries*

Senator CANTWELL. Senators will have until the close of business Friday, April 11, to submit questions for the record. These nominees will have until the close of business Tuesday, April 15 to respond to these questions.

I thank Senator Cruz for allowing me to come back and ask these questions.

That concludes our hearing today. The Committee stands adjourned.

[Whereupon, at 12:58 p.m., the hearing was adjourned.]

## A P P E N D I X

### RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO JARED ISAACMAN

*Question 1.* Do you commit to providing NASA’s initial reduction in force (RIF) plan, as submitted to OMB, to the Committee, if confirmed?

Answer. To the extent it is permissible, yes. Like all Federal departments and agencies, NASA operates within a government-wide framework and must adhere to OMB and White House guidance regarding RIF procedures.

*Question 2.* Do you commit to providing all subsequent RIF plans to the Committee prior to executing them?

Answer. To the extent it is permissible, yes. Like all Federal departments and agencies, NASA operates within a government-wide framework and must adhere to OMB and White House guidance regarding RIF procedures.

*Question 3.* In your testimony, you made several important points about the economics of space exploration. In particular, you emphasized the goal of a commercial low Earth orbit (LEO) economy and the need to understand the commercial potential of outer space beyond LEO. You promised that NASA would “ignite a thriving space economy in low Earth orbit,” discussed your desire to maximize the remaining life of the International Space Station (ISS), and said you would “determine the economic . . . value” of the lunar surface as part of your approach to lunar exploration.

Such economic analysis may prove challenging in part because NASA recently disbanded the Office of the Chief Economist at NASA headquarters, telling Committee staff that “there is no intention to maintain the function of the chief economist at the agency, and no plan to transfer those functions within other elements of the agency.” Among other things, this office helped with cross-agency economic planning, conducted market assessments and economic analyses, and advised the Administrator on economic matters related to budget planning, program implementation and review, and procurement.

a. Do you have a strategy for developing a robust space economy, particularly in LEO, where private investment, and not just NASA funding, sustains various space capabilities and activities? If so, please describe it.

Answer. Yes, hopefully I have been clear and passionate in my testimony and responses that unlocking the true space economy is imperative. After 60 years of space exploration, we’re still largely operating under a government-funded model focused on launch, communications, and observation. It is not reasonable for taxpayers to perpetually fund the future we all envision for space.

If confirmed, my strategy starts with making the most of the ISS while it’s deemed safe to operate. We need to prioritize science and research with real economic potential—particularly in biotech, pharmaceuticals, and advanced materials—to validate commercial use cases and give future LEO destinations the best possible chance of success. That is our best path to “crack the code” on the space economy.

Second, we need to remove the friction and bureaucracy that slows commercial progress. That means streamlining NASA’s infrastructure access, rethinking how we engage with and ‘do business’ private industry, and ensuring our funding models don’t just subsidize activity but instead catalyze scalable, sustainable outcomes.

b. If confirmed, do you intend to seek out any market assessments, economic analyses, or other financial or economic products to inform decision making at the agency? If yes, from where or whom will you obtain this information?

Answer. If confirmed, I would absolutely seek out credible economic and market analyses to inform decision-making at NASA—especially as we work to ignite a true space economy and ensure a responsible return on taxpayer investments.

That said, I would also like to understand the current resources and internal capabilities within the agency. I’m aware that certain economic offices or roles were recently dissolved, and I’d want to review that rationale and determine whether that expertise should be restored or supplemented.

*Question 4.* During your hearing, you criticized the speed of NASA’s return to the lunar surface, citing the cost and schedule overruns. You said the President and many Americans are probably asking, “what’s taking us so long to get back to the Moon and why does it cost so much money?” As you know, the Apollo program was primarily about putting man on the Moon, not maintaining a sustained human presence there. In contrast, the Artemis program is intended to create a “sustained human presence in cis-lunar space or on the Moon.” (emphasis added) Similarly, the overarching Moon-to-Mars program is intended to ensure that the efforts and technologies of the Artemis program feed forward to manned missions to Mars. I am concerned about suggestions that the United States abandon the statutory requirement for NASA to maintain a material presence on or near the Moon. Congress was clear that the Artemis architecture is not to be retired or disbanded just because we have once again reached the Moon. Rather, Artemis and particularly Gateway are to serve as something akin to a forward operating base in space.

a. In your own words, how do you understand the term “sustained human presence” found in § 20302 of Chapter 51, United States Code?

Answer. In my view, a “sustained human presence” means more than simply visiting or conducting one-off missions. It implies a continuous or regularly recurring physical presence that enables a broader strategic objective such as a scientific, economic or national security imperative.

b. Do you believe a sustained human presence at or on the Moon is necessary to maintain American leadership in space?

Answer. As I stated during the hearing, I’m committed to following the law—and as a lifelong space enthusiast, I would like nothing more than to see lunar operations become continuous, enduring, and routine. That said, maintaining American leadership in space will require flexible policies that ensure clear scientific, economic, and strategic value for the American taxpayer and allow the agency, working with the Congress, to adapt to meet the ever changing geopolitical landscape.

*Question 5.* During your hearing, several members of the Committee, including me, questioned you about whether NASA can meet its existing statutory obligations while simultaneously embarking on a new, dual-track mission to Mars under current budget levels. Do you believe that NASA—under current budget levels—can simultaneously have a continuous human presence in LEO through and beyond the life of the ISS as we transition to commercial LEO destinations (CLDs); establish a sustained human presence at the Moon; continue funding for other, existing complex science missions; and stand up a new manned mission to Mars?

Answer. Historically, NASA managed multiple complex human spaceflight programs simultaneously—Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo—alongside numerous exploration missions like Ranger, Surveyor, Pioneer, in an era with far less technological capability than we possess today. More than six decades later, with the advances in industry and innovation, I believe the world’s premier space agency should be capable of executing multiple major initiatives at a time.

I believe pursuing both lunar and Martian objectives is not inherently cost-prohibitive nor expressly prohibited by existing Federal statute should such efforts not detract from the near-term objective of returning to the Moon first. There is meaningful hardware commonality across the existing Artemis Human Landing System (HLS) providers. For instance, both contractors are already required to validate reusable heavy-lift launch capabilities—technologies essential for transporting mass beyond low Earth orbit, whether toward the Moon or Mars. In fact, many of the technologies and capabilities NASA is already investing in—such as surface nuclear power systems, nuclear electric propulsion, and nuclear thermal propulsion—are highly relevant for Mars exploration, though they remain underfunded and subscale.

*Question 6.* During the hearing, when asked by Senator Moran if you believe the current Artemis architecture, featuring the Space Launch System and Orion, is the best and fastest way to beat China to the Moon, you answered, “I don’t think it’s the long-term way [SLS and Orion] to get to and from the Moon, and to Mars, with great frequency, but this is the plan we have now. . . .”

a. What do you envision as the long-term way to get to/from the Moon and Mars?

Answer. As I stated during the hearing, SLS is the current plan and the fastest way to send American astronauts back to the Moon ahead of our geopolitical rivals. And this is a race we can’t risk losing. But once our initial lunar objectives have been met, I believe NASA should transition from competing with industry and focus again on what no other agency or organization is capable of accomplishing.

The commercial launch market is more capable than ever, with numerous American providers investing in heavy-lift capabilities. NASA should take advantage of that competition and eventually refocus its world-class talent and infrastructure on what no one else is doing: developing the next generation of exploration tech-

nologies. That includes nuclear-powered spacecraft, which I believe represent the logical next step for long-duration, deep space missions beyond Mars.

b. What is the time-frame in which you believe NASA could begin executing the plan you describe?

Answer. Human Landing System (HLS) contractors are already developing heavy-lift capabilities as part of the Artemis program. As those vehicles prove themselves by supporting Artemis lunar missions, they will be well-positioned to take on greater responsibility for sustainable, affordable transport to the Moon and Mars.

Beyond just the existing HLS contractors, there are additional commercial providers investing in similar heavy-lift capabilities. As commercial readiness increases, NASA will have the opportunity eventually to transition away from government-owned heavy-lift launch and shift its focus toward enabling technologies for deep space exploration.

*Question 7.* There has been much speculation in the media about the administration's rumored desire to move NASA Headquarters out of Washington, DC, and to a NASA field center. Will you commit to notifying me or my committee staff of any NASA plans to move Headquarters outside of Washington, DC, well ahead of an official announcement?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 8.* NASA's Science Mission Directorate is responsible for the Mars Sample Return (MSR) mission and is managed by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). The Mars Sample Return will be crucial for helping plan a manned mission to Mars. The astromaterials receiving facility at the Johnson Space Center will be responsible for receiving, processing, and housing these samples—as they do with all astromaterials—once they have returned to Earth. However, NASA has halted progress on the program after cost and schedule ballooned well beyond expectations. You have said you believe in commercialization and helping to spur the space economy. Currently, the commercial space company Rocket Lab has a proposal to manage MSR for less than half of the last estimate from the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). Do you commit to taking a hard look at whether MSR should be outsourced to industry, if confirmed?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 9.* When we met in my office, you talked about potentially centralizing mission control and space traffic management. Currently, the Johnson Space Center is home to Mission Control for all manned missions in space. What is your view on the future of mission control and space traffic management?

Answer. NASA currently operates multiple “mission control” functions across the country, and while that's understandable given the agency's diverse mission portfolio, I don't believe every mission requires its own bespoke mission control center. This problem will only further be exacerbated as commercial industry matures and the space economy is finally uncovered.

If we truly envision a future with multiple space stations, regular lunar operations, Mars missions, and an expanding array of flagship science missions, then we need a more scalable, efficient, and centralized approach. This could include the consolidation of mission operations into a single, unified mission control architecture—a central command center that maintains real-time situational awareness across all peaceful space exploration activities. That doesn't mean eliminating specialized expertise, but rather integrating and streamlining operations where possible to improve coordination, resilience, and decision-making.

*Question 10.* During your hearing, I asked if you intended, if confirmed, to cancel Gateway, the orbital lunar outpost that NASA currently plans to use as both the first step in a sustained human presence at the Moon and later on as the staging point for a manned mission to Mars. You said you “have no intention, as of now to . . . cancel any program . . . if I'm confirmed.” The *Washington Post*, however, reported on Friday, April 11th that when OMB completed “pass back” of the forthcoming NASA budget request for Fiscal Year 2026, it came to light that the administration intends to cancel Gateway. Just this month NASA took possession of the main module of Gateway, beginning the process of assembly and integration with other sections. Despite the fact that NASA has the hardware on hand, and despite the fact that other, partner nations are actually shouldering 60 percent of Gateway's cost, the administration appears to want to cancel the entire effort.

a. Given that NASA intends to use Gateway to meet the statutory requirement for a sustained human presence at the Moon, how will NASA (and you, if confirmed) meet this statutory obligation if Gateway is terminated?

Answer. I am not aware of any plans to cancel Gateway, and as I stated during the hearing, I am fully committed to following the law as written. I would have to look into the specifics of this matter more closely, if confirmed.

b. If cancelled, how will you ensure the aforementioned international partners remain partners in the lunar exploration effort given that we might unilaterally upended their investments?

Answer. American leadership in the ultimate high ground of space requires the contributions and trust of our international partners. Our credibility is paramount. I have no interest in seeing those relationships jeopardized or driving our allies into partnerships with geopolitical competitors.

While, again, I am not aware of any plans to cancel Gateway, if such a situation arose, I would work closely with our partners—as I have done in countless complex international negotiations in my business career—to find an acceptable path forward. I have a long track record of bringing people together to accomplish difficult, high-stakes objectives, and I would bring that same collaborative mindset to NASA.

c. Would NASA need additional taxpayer dollars to repay the international partners of Gateway for the investments and hardware contributions they have made to this point if Gateway is cancelled?

Answer. I wouldn't want to speculate on something I'm not aware is actually under consideration.

*Question 11.* The Federal government is currently operating under a continuing resolution which extends the funding levels and funding provisions of the Fiscal Year (FY) 2024 appropriations act through the end of the current Fiscal Year. Importantly, Section 739 of the FY24 appropriations act states that agencies may not change programs, projects, or activities unless such changes are approved in a subsequent law. Section 1105 of the FY25 continuing resolution, under which the Federal government is currently operating, extended this prohibition, stating:

*“Except as otherwise expressly provided in this division, the requirements, authorities, conditions, limitations, and other provisions of the appropriations Acts referred to in section 1101 shall continue in effect through [the end of FY25].”*

Given these explicit prohibitions, do you believe the agency has the legal authority to unilaterally cancel Gateway or make any changes listed in the forthcoming President's Budget Request (PBR)?

Answer. I am not currently a party to any budget discussions and am not aware of any planned program cancellations. As I mentioned during my hearing, I believe NASA is capable of managing multiple world-changing endeavors—if we eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and stay focused on the mission. I remain hopeful that tough trades won't be required, but if they are, I would work closely with the Congress to ensure the best possible outcomes and to remain fully compliant with existing law. The goal must always be to fulfill the agency's obligations while advancing American leadership in space.

*Question 12.* Public reporting indicates that FY26 PBR will propose significant changes to multiple NASA programs, including a number of exploration and science-focused programs. If confirmed, will you maintain progress on those programs until any changes are made in law, as is required by both current authorizing and appropriations law?

Answer. I am not currently a party to any budget discussions and am not aware of any planned program cancellations. As I mentioned during my hearing, I believe NASA is capable of managing multiple world-changing endeavors—if we eliminate unnecessary bureaucracy and stay focused on the mission. I remain hopeful that tough trades won't be required, but if they are, I would work closely with the Congress to ensure the best possible outcomes and to remain fully compliant with existing law. The goal must always be to fulfill the agency's obligations while advancing American leadership in space.

*Question 13.* In your testimony, you highlighted the strategic importance of the Moon as a source of Helium-3. There are several commercial entities seeking to extract and return Helium-3 to the Earth for applications such as fusion energy. What do you see as NASA's role in enabling a robust commercial marketplace for resource extraction on the Moon?

Answer. As I've said before, it's imperative that we crack the code on the space economy and shift away from a model where taxpayers are solely funding the future we all want to see in space. The first step is to make the most of the ISS—prioritizing high-potential science and research and ensuring we fully leverage its remaining life.

That said, I believe the next frontier of economic opportunity will extend to the lunar surface. If confirmed, I would support NASA in enabling early commercial ef-

forts—through technical support, access to infrastructure, and policy leadership—while ensuring the agency remains focused on exploration, science, and stewardship of this new domain. If Helium-3 or other resources prove to be economically viable, NASA can play a vital role in catalyzing that marketplace in partnership with industry and international partners. This may very well be one of the paths to NASA becoming a self-sustaining agency.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. ROGER WICKER TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

*Question 1.* NASA leadership at the John C. Stennis Space Center in Mississippi has made great strides in partnering with commercial space firms in rocket propulsion testing. However, barriers to more effective partnership, such as lengthy decision processes, cost, and risk acceptance persist within NASA.

If confirmed, how will you transform NASA to remove the barriers that inhibit the full utilization of NASA's world class test capabilities, such as lengthy decision-making processes and outdated regulations? How will you utilize your authorities to grow NASA's partnerships with commercial space industry for the use of land and infrastructure at NASA centers?

Answer. NASA Stennis is a great example of how the agency can reinvent itself to better support commercial industry. That kind of transformation needs to happen across more of the organization. I have no doubt that outdated regulations, unnecessary layers of bureaucracy, and slow decision-making are inhibiting NASA's ability to fully leverage its world-class infrastructure—and ultimately slowing down mission delivery.

If confirmed, you can count on me to roll up my sleeves and get in the trenches to identify and remove those barriers. I will draw on everything I've learned from leading two successful companies, including in the aerospace and defense sectors, to help NASA become faster, more collaborative, and easier to do business with.

I would also fully utilize the Administrator's authorities to expand public-private partnerships—ensuring that land, infrastructure, and talent at NASA centers are being used to their full potential to support American innovation, grow the space economy, and accelerate the agency's core mission.

*Question 2.* NASA is increasing its reliance on the commercial space sector to execute its mission. For example, the International Space Station will be decommissioned in 2030, and will be replaced by commercial space stations. It is important for the United States government to both grow the commercial space industry and maintain government activity in space, especially as our key competitors, China and Russia, have increased their space presence and developed launch vehicles capable of reaching all orbits and satellite constellations for remote sensing, navigation, and communications.

If confirmed, will it be a priority of yours to continue to invest in Federal capabilities at NASA field centers? I believe we can balance increasing opportunities for commercial space industry with the need to maintain Federal investments in space exploration. Is that a balance that you support?

Answer. Yes, I believe that balance is not only possible—but essential. NASA has partnered with commercial industry since its inception, and the line of responsibility has always been clear: NASA should focus on the near-impossible—those missions and technologies that no other organization, company, or country is capable of achieving.

When NASA accomplishes a major breakthrough, it should hand off that capability to commercial partners and shift its focus to the next frontier. That's how we scale innovation, grow the space economy, and maintain American leadership.

For example, as industry continues to mature in chemical propulsion, NASA should already be shifting its focus toward nuclear propulsion and other next-generation technologies. That's what it means to push the edge of the possible. If confirmed, I would support continued investment in NASA's field centers—not just to preserve core capabilities, but to ensure we're always preparing for the next leap forward.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN CURTIS TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

**Artemis/Defense in UT**

*Question 1.* Utah is home to Northrop Grumman's Solid Rocket Motor production. Companies in Utah are then able to leverage this technology to help lower the costs

of no-fail national security missions. As a result, Artemis contributes to reducing costs for defense research and production. *As Administrator, how would you implement efficiencies to lower production costs for Space Launch System components?*

Answer. Solid rocket motor production—like the work done in Utah—is a critical national capability that not only supports Artemis but also strengthens our no-fail defense programs. I understand and appreciate the strategic importance of these industrial synergies, and I believe Artemis can and should contribute to a broader ecosystem of innovation, workforce development, and supply chain resilience.

That said, SLS has faced well-documented cost and program challenges. If confirmed, I would work to implement greater accountability and transparency in the production of SLS components alongside a broader cultural mission-first transformation at the agency. It has taken long enough, cost enough and it's time to get back to the Moon, to do so before our rivals get there and press on to Mars.

*Question 2.* Utah continues to face serious challenges related to drought, wildfire risk, and declining water levels, and particularly at the Great Salt Lake. If confirmed, how would you ensure that NASA continues to prioritize Earth Science efforts—like satellite-based drought monitoring and water resource modeling—that help states like Utah manage these risks?

Answer. I believe Earth Science is one of NASA's most important missions—because it delivers real, measurable benefits to the American people. Satellite-based observations, including drought monitoring, wildfire forecasting, and water resource modeling, provide critical data that helps communities and those suffering from real hardships that cost billions to remediate.

If confirmed, I will ensure that NASA continues to prioritize high-impact science efforts that support agriculture, safeguard infrastructure, and help states respond to drought and natural disasters. We should be using our space-based assets not only to explore the solar system, but to protect and better understand our own planet.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

#### **WV Visit**

*Question 1.* Mr. Isaacman, thank you for your willingness to serve and for speaking with me on Monday. The IV&V Center in Fairmont, West Virginia is the home of NASA's IVV Program and is a critical resource to the agency. The center has identified and fixed thousands of software defects, including 18,000 for the Artemis I projects alone. I would love to host you at the IV&V Center in Fairmont so you can see for yourself how invested they are in safety and mission success.

If confirmed can you commit to visiting this important facility with me?

Answer. Yes. It would be my pleasure.

#### **Space Collaboratives**

*Question 2.* I am a strong supporter of the Keystone Space Collaborative (KSC). As a Pennsylvanian I'm sure you recognize that the contributions to our space program and the aerospace industry aren't limited to just a few geographic regions. Ohio, Pennsylvania, and West Virginia offer the resources, expertise, research and workforce to make major contributions.

How will you prioritize working with this collaborative and with other stakeholders across the country?

Answer. Absolutely—as mentioned in the hearing, I believe NASA will need the best and brightest from across the Nation to achieve world-changing objectives. Organizations like the Keystone Space Collaborative are helping to ensure that Ohio, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, and other regions play a critical role in shaping the future of aerospace and space exploration.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARIA CANTWELL TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

**DOGE, Workforce, Budgets.** Mr. Isaacman, I appreciated our conversation about NASA's priorities and the importance of sustained, robust funding to achieving these goals. You yourself recognized you are a "political newcomer," and told me you thought NASA's funding would be protected because "everybody likes NASA." Unfortunately, the Trump Administration's DOGE team is signaling NASA's budget may be next.

On March 10, pursuant to President Trump's DOGE executive order (EO), NASA carried out its first round of reductions in force—terminating 23 employees, including NASA's Chief Scientist, Technologist, and Economist. A second round of large-scale terminations is expected soon.

Meanwhile, according to recent press reports, the White House is considering proposing major cuts to NASA's science budget for FY 2026—potentially up to 50 percent.

*Question 1.* I know you have said you would like to work on the moon and Mars missions in parallel and believe it can be done with NASA's current budget. However, if there is enough funding only for a mission to the moon *or* a mission to Mars—which will you prioritize?

Answer. Given existing law, I would prioritize the Artemis program. That said, I believe pursuing both lunar and Martian objectives in parallel is not inherently cost-prohibitive. There is meaningful hardware commonality across the existing Artemis Human Landing System (HLS) providers. For instance, both contractors are already required to validate reusable heavy-lift launch capabilities—technologies essential for transporting mass beyond low Earth orbit, whether toward the Moon or Mars.

Historically, NASA managed multiple complex programs simultaneously—Mercury, Gemini, and Apollo—in an era with far less technological capability than we possess today. More than six decades later, with the advances in industry and innovation, I believe the world's premier space agency should be capable of executing multiple major initiatives at a time.

*Question 2.* Yes or no: Would you support a 50 percent cut to NASA's science budget?

Answer. I have not reviewed or been party to any official discussions, but a ~50 percent reduction to NASA's science budget does not appear to be an optimal outcome.

*Question 3.* Mr. Isaacman, you have expressed ambitious plans for NASA if confirmed. How do you plan to accomplish these priorities if the Administration tries to shrink NASA's budget and slash its workforce?

Answer. As I stated during the hearing, NASA requires the best and brightest talent from across the Nation to accomplish what no other agency or organization can—especially in environments that demand doing more with less. I support the President's commitment to eliminating fraud, waste, abuse, and unnecessary bureaucracy that can hinder the agency's mission. If confirmed, I will advocate for NASA's priorities and the resources needed to pursue them as efficiently and effectively as possible.

*Question 4.* In addition to lunar and Martian exploration, do you believe that NASA has other important missions to fulfill, such as conducting and supporting research and development (R&D) in Earth's orbit, space science, Earth science, and aeronautics R&D?

Answer. Yes. As I noted in my prepared remarks, NASA has a vital role to play across science and exploration. The agency should continue to lead in the high ground of space—not only to return humans to the Moon and journey to Mars, but also to ignite a thriving space economy by maximizing the remaining life and utility of the International Space Station, and serving as a force multiplier for science. Through this work, NASA can accelerate the pace of world-changing discoveries.

*Question 5.* Do you support reductions in force at NASA?

Answer. As I stated during the hearing, NASA must be staffed with the best and brightest from across the country to take on its bold and complex mission—especially in times that require greater efficiency. I support the President's goal of eliminating fraud, waste, abuse, and unnecessary bureaucracy that can impede progress. If confirmed, I will advocate for the agency's priorities and the resources necessary to achieve them while ensuring that any organizational changes are thoughtful, mission-focused, and grounded in the need to enhance—not diminish—NASA's ability to deliver on the mission.

*Question 6.* How will NASA maintain critical expertise in economic and technical areas after these reductions in force? Specifically, without the Office of the Chief Economist, how will the agency publish Economic Impact Reports and how will you make informed decisions regarding the economic feasibility and merits of NASA's efforts to support sustainable commercialization of space activities?

Answer. If confirmed, I would want to fully understand the rationale behind these reductions—particularly in areas so closely tied to one of my top priorities: igniting a space economy. Like millions of others, I'm excited about the opportunities space offers, but I also recognize that taxpayers cannot carry the full burden of those am-

bitions indefinitely. To unlock the economic potential of space, we will need the insight of experts who understand how to translate scientific and technical achievements into sustainable, real-world value. That type of expertise—economic and technical—must be preserved and utilized to ensure that NASA’s commercial initiatives are both strategically sound and fiscally responsible.

*Question 7.* Do you consider supporting NASA’s workforce and physical infrastructure to be important budget priorities?

Answer. NASA’s people and infrastructure are foundational to the agency’s success. The workforce represents the talent and expertise required to pursue groundbreaking science and exploration, while the infrastructure—developed over decades—is a key enabler.

*Question 8.* In light of the ongoing reductions in force at NASA and potential large-scale budget cuts, are you concerned that NASA will lose and fail to attract the scientific and technical expertise that we need to stay ahead of our competitors?

Answer. I firmly believe that if NASA continues to deliver on its mission—pursuing what no other agency or organization can—then recruitment, retention, STEM engagement, and public inspiration will follow. People are drawn to purpose, and few missions are as bold or as meaningful as the one NASA undertakes.

**NASA Thermoplastics Research and Development.** NASA’s aeronautics R&D is crucial for both aviation safety and America’s global aerospace leadership. Through the Hi-Rate Composite Aircraft Manufacturing (HiCAM) project, NASA is developing technologies that achieve up to 50 percent reduced cost for composite structures while enabling high-rate production for future aircraft.

The Spokane Aerospace Tech Hub will complement this work by taking NASA’s lab-proven technologies and completing the critical final steps needed for full-scale industrial production, focusing on thermoplastic composites where Europe and Asia currently lead. This capability represents both an economic opportunity and a national security imperative, ensuring domestic control of technologies essential for next-generation fixed-wing aircraft.

*Question 1.* Mr. Isaacman, as Administrator, how will you ensure that NASA’s aeronautics programs and projects such as HiCAM support critical initiatives like the Spokane Tech Hub that strengthen our domestic supply chains and help American manufacturers compete globally in next-generation lightweight aircraft materials?

Answer. I care deeply about American competitiveness and believe NASA should focus on advancing next-generation technologies that align with the agency’s mission and broader national priorities. If confirmed, I will quickly get up to speed on these initiatives and evaluate how NASA can best support projects like HiCAM and the Spokane Tech Hub to enhance our domestic capabilities and global leadership in aerospace.

*Question 2.* Will you commit to continue supporting NASA participation in the Advanced Aerospace Materials and Manufacturing Center (AAMMC) as a member of the Tech Hub’s consortium of public and private sector members?

Answer. I am not yet fully familiar with the specifics of the AAMMC, but based on what I understand, it seems both logical and beneficial for NASA to participate in efforts that bring together public and private sector expertise to advance critical aerospace technologies.

**Aviation and Spaceflight Safety.** This Committee has been focused for several years on our legislative and oversight responsibilities related to aviation safety. The Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024 includes new measures to improve aviation safety. NASA plays a critical role as a technical advisor to the FAA and developer of technologies essential to both aviation and human spaceflight safety.

In your private sector experience, you’ve been a pilot and founded a company that provided adversary air training services to the U.S. military. You’ve also participated in commercial human spaceflight missions.

*Question 1.* Do you agree that NASA’s R&D and technical advisory capabilities are vital to the safety of our aviation system and the safety of the flying public?

Answer. Yes. NASA has a long and respected history of research and innovation that directly supports aviation safety. Its technical expertise has played a critical role in improving systems, procedures, and technologies that protect the flying public.

*Question 2.* How would you ensure NASA continues to provide the technical expertise needed by regulatory agencies like the FAA for aviation and commercial spaceflight safety?

Answer. NASA's management of the Aviation Safety Reporting System provides unique insight into self-reported safety-related incidents, positioning the agency to contribute meaningfully to safety improvements. If confirmed, I would collaborate closely with the FAA and industry stakeholders to identify the most pressing challenges in aviation and commercial spaceflight safety and ensure NASA's resources are directed toward developing solutions that produce measurable results.

**Lunar lander redundancy.** You have publicly criticized many aspects of NASA and the current Artemis architecture. For example, you previously criticized NASA for supporting two Human Landing System (HLS) lunar landers from two providers. However, dissimilar redundancy ensures safety and competition between more than one provider spurs innovation.

*Question 1.* Are you still opposed to redundancy? Or do you now support human lunar lander redundancy?

Answer. Several years ago, I expressed concerns about redundancy after a competitive process had already concluded and a single provider had been selected. At the time, I found it difficult to reconcile having no redundancy for transporting astronauts to lunar orbit—given our reliance on a single vehicle like SLS—while simultaneously funding multiple redundant systems for the landing itself. My position stemmed from a genuine concern over program delays, budget overruns, and the risk that my children might not see American astronauts return to the Moon within a reasonable time-frame or budget.

*Question 2.* If you now support HLS lunar lander dissimilar redundancy, please explain why your position has changed.

Answer. I no longer oppose lunar lander redundancy because the decision has already been made, and significant investments have been committed. As a result, the United States now has an additional commercial provider with heavy-lift launch capability, which enhances national resilience and capacity in space exploration.

*Question 3.* How would you ensure the safety of our astronauts without the added resiliency created through redundancy?

Answer. Fortunately, we now have two commercial providers developing redundant lunar landers, which strengthens mission safety and flexibility. However, I believe it's important to highlight that we still lack redundancy in the systems that transport astronauts from Earth to lunar orbit and back. That remains a critical area of focus if we are to ensure complete mission resiliency and crew safety.

**Space Launch System (SLS).** You previously called NASA's Space Launch System (SLS) "outrageously expensive" and suggested it was the result of the Federal government being "lousy at capital allocation."

*Question 1.* Yes or No: Do you support continued Artemis missions with NASA's Space Launch System?

Answer. Yes. As I mentioned during the hearing, the SLS is part of the current plan and represents the fastest path to returning American astronauts to the Moon. That said, the program has significant challenges. Even NASA's Inspector General has issued multiple reports critical of the SLS program's cost and schedule performance.

*Question 2.* Yes or No: Do you plan to cancel NASA's Space Launch System, if confirmed?

Answer. No. As I stated in the hearing, SLS is the current plan and the fastest means of sending American astronauts to the Moon ahead of our geopolitical rivals. As I emphasized during the hearing, this is a race the United States can't afford to lose. Once those obligations have been met, I believe NASA should transition away from competing with the commercial sector and instead focus its world-class talent and infrastructure on developing the next generation of exploration technologies—including nuclear spaceships—as a logical next step.

*Question 3.* According to a March 29, 2025, *Wall Street Journal* report titled, "Elon Musk's Mission to Take Over NASA—and Mars," the Trump White House plans to propose canceling SLS in its FY 2026 budget proposal. Are you aware of any such plan?

Answer. I am not aware of any plan to cancel SLS.

*Question 4.* Have you discussed the prospect of canceling SLS with any Trump Administration official?

Answer. No.

*Question 5.* Have you discussed the prospect of canceling SLS with any SpaceX representative?

Answer. No.

*Question 6.* Do you believe canceling SLS would be detrimental to U.S. efforts to return to the moon before China arrives?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 7.* If confirmed, do you intend to move NASA away from SLS and toward reliance on commercial heavy lift launch vehicles, such as the SpaceX Starship and Blue Origin New Glenn? Why or why not?

Answer. As I've said, SLS is the plan today and provides the fastest pathway for returning American astronauts to the Moon and it is imperative we do not lose in this regard. However, at some point in the future, after NASA meets the imperative lunar objectives, I believe the agency should transition away from competing with commercial providers. Instead, NASA's focus should shift toward the technologies that no other agency or organization is capable of developing—such as nuclear-powered spacecraft—that will enable deeper space exploration and sustain U.S. leadership in space.

***NASA Funding and Support to the Commercial Space Economy.*** In your written and verbal testimony before the Committee, you stated that one of your three main objectives for NASA was to “ignite a thriving space economy in low Earth orbit.” You further explained that by working alongside international partners and industry, “we can unlock the true economic potential of space and deliver meaningful benefits to the American people—potentially charting a course for NASA to become a financially self-sustaining agency.”

NASA's current support to fostering a thriving low Earth orbit space economy often involves partnerships with commercial industry that include cost sharing, in-kind technical support, and commitments to be an “anchor tenant” customer in specific mission areas and capabilities.

*Question 1.* Given the nascent nature of many on-orbit commercial space activities and NASA's current role as a source of Federal funding and technical assistance to industry, what financial arrangements are you envisioning that would allow NASA to be self-sustaining and independent of significant Congressional appropriations?

Answer. Like millions of others, I envision an exciting future in space—but I also recognize that budgets are not unlimited. For over 60 years, American taxpayers have invested in the agency's pursuit and exploration of the final frontier. Moving forward, those taxpayer contributions should increasingly be supplemented by the economic potential space has to offer. Ideally, NASA should begin to explore mechanisms for generating offsetting revenue—similar in spirit to the FAA's use of the Airport and Airway Trust Fund.

***CLPS and Lunar Science.*** The Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program has emerged as a critical component in supporting NASA's sustainable lunar presence and meeting civil and national security needs. Key modifications are being considered for CLPS 2.0, such as establishing a regular cadence of missions, adopting block buy contracts, expanding to heavier cargo-class landers, incorporating infrastructure providers, and making CLPS a multi-directorate program.

*Question 1.* Will you commit to supporting these modifications to CLPS and increasing funding between the Space Technology Mission Directorate (STMD) and the Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate (ESDMD) to expand commercial lunar surface demonstrations?

Answer. While I cannot speak to future budget increases, I am a strong advocate for the Commercial Lunar Payload Services (CLPS) program and believe it represents a compelling model not only for lunar missions, but for future exploration and discovery efforts more broadly. CLPS embodies a templated, scalable approach that allows for more frequent, cost-effective “shots on goal,” in contrast to NASA's historic reliance on bespoke, high-cost science missions. Expanding this type of model can accelerate discovery, spur commercial innovation, and better position NASA to pursue a wide range of scientific objectives across the solar system.

***Astrophysics.*** We are aware of your past interest in proposing a servicing mission to the Hubble Telescope using private funding. U.S. leadership in astronomy dates back to more than a century, with space-based telescopes revolutionizing our understanding of the universe. Sustaining the operations of our existing astrophysical observatories is at significant risk due to proposed steep cuts in their operating budgets, despite huge demand for observation time using these telescopes.

*Question 1.* Will you commit to supporting the full operations cost of Hubble and JWST, to ensure that taxpayers receive the appropriate return on their investments in these missions?

Answer. I strongly believe in maximizing the value of instruments that have already been funded and are delivering meaningful scientific returns. Telescopes like

JWST, Hubble, Chandra, and others represent decades of investment and are producing groundbreaking insights.

**Heliophysics.** Space weather caused by the relationship between the Sun and the Earth, is an area of NASA science that is vital to the global economy. Warning times for the impact of a direct hit on our planet from a coronal mass ejection (CME) remain dangerously low, putting at risk assets in space and critical infrastructure on Earth. Unfortunately, NASA's most recent budget requests for this field of research have been lower than expected.

*Question 1.* Will you support growing the Heliophysics budget so that it reaches roughly a billion dollars a year to adequately address space weather risks?

Answer. I am personally well aware of the risks posed by space weather—not only to our Nation's critical infrastructure but also to the lives of astronauts. If confirmed, I will be an advocate for continued investments in heliophysics and for ensuring that we remain vigilant in understanding and mitigating these risks.

*Question 2.* What are your plans to implement the National Academies most recent Heliophysics decadal survey that called for developing the Geospace Dynamics Constellation (GDC)?

Answer. I am not yet deeply familiar with the details of the GDC program, but if confirmed, I intend to become well-versed in the latest decadal recommendations and do everything I can to support their thoughtful implementation. The decadal surveys represent a vital, community-driven process for setting scientific priorities, and I take that guidance seriously.

*Question 3.* Will you commit to protecting the operations and science data analysis budgets for currently operating missions like the Magnetospheric Multiscale (MMS) Mission so that U.S. scientists and researchers, rather than their Chinese counterparts, can continue to lead the world in the analysis needed to better understand the risks from space weather?

Answer. I am not yet familiar with the specific status of the MMS mission, but I care deeply about maintaining U.S. leadership in science and ensuring that our investments continue to yield important data and discoveries. If confirmed, I will take a close look at the mission's contributions and work to understand both the risks it helps address and the opportunities it presents for continued leadership in heliophysics.

**Elon Musk and Conflicts of Interest.** I understand you have a close relationship with Mr. Musk and his company, SpaceX.

I want to be clear about my expectations: The American people must have confidence that their leaders are not beholden to any one person. If you are confirmed, I expect you will go above and beyond the bare minimum and clearly demonstrate that you are acting in the public's interest—not Mr. Musk's or your own.

*Context:*

My relationship with SpaceX is not unlike NASA's, in that they are currently the only commercial provider offering crewed transportation to and from low Earth orbit. I do not have a close personal relationship with Mr. Musk. While I've spoken with him occasionally over the years in my capacity as a SpaceX customer, I would describe our interactions as professional. I admire and respect his contributions to space and technology, but it would be inaccurate to characterize our relationship as close.

*Question 1.* How will you ensure that your relationship with Mr. Musk and SpaceX will not result in conflicts of interest or the appearance of conflicts?

Answer. I disclosed all financial and contractual relationships during the ethics process and have fully complied with the guidance and conclusions provided by government ethics officials. I will not hesitate to involve NASA's General Counsel, or other designated agency ethics officials, on any matter that could even give the appearance of a conflict. I have no interest in personal gain or benefiting any contractor—I am here solely to serve my country and lead the world's greatest space agency with integrity and transparency.

*Question 2.* Will you commit to recusing yourself from NASA decisions that would impact SpaceX or Mr. Musk?

Answer. I fully commit to adhering to my ethics agreement, and whenever there is uncertainty, I will consult with the NASA General Counsel, or other designated agency ethics officials, to ensure full compliance.

*Question 3.* If no, what will you do to ensure Mr. Musk does not inappropriately influence these decisions?

Answer. The commercial launch market today is more competitive than at any point in the history of space exploration. NASA will continue to conduct open and

fair competitions with the objective of delivering the best capability to taxpayers at the lowest cost.

*Question 4.* What procedures will you put into place to ensure that Mr. Musk does not inappropriately influence the independent decision making of NASA?

Answer. NASA has operated for decades alongside a broad base of major contractors—including Boeing, Lockheed Martin, Northrop Grumman, Blue Origin, and SpaceX. I trust the agency has well-established internal controls to preserve independent decision-making, and if confirmed, I will uphold and reinforce those standards across the board.

*Question 5.* To promote public confidence and transparency, will you notify Congress every time Mr. Musk meets with you or anyone on your senior team?

Answer. Upon confirmation, I will execute my duties as Administrator consistent with applicable government ethics laws and regulations and based on guidance from the NASA's General Counsel or other designated agency ethics officials.

*Question 6.* You have made the decision to retain a 25 percent ownership interest in Shift4, rather than divesting entirely, while Shift4 maintains a financial relationship with Starlink that pays your company between \$10–16 million per year. Given this ongoing financial relationship with one of Mr. Musk's companies, what specific steps will you take, if confirmed, to avoid the appearance of conflicts of interest with Mr. Musk or Starlink?

Answer. Upon confirmation, I will resign from my positions with Shift4 Payments, LLC and Shift4 Payments, Inc, and its wholly owned subsidiaries. I will also surrender my majority voting control of the business. I will take these actions pursuant to my ethics agreement. Furthermore, upon confirmation, I will execute my duties as Administrator consistent with applicable government ethics laws and regulations and based on guidance from the NASA's General Counsel or other designated agency ethics officials.

*Question 7.* Will you ensure SpaceX employees are not given access to NASA computer systems, databases, or facilities that present a conflict of interest, like what we have seen at the FAA?

Answer. No vendor or contractor will have access to NASA systems or data beyond what is explicitly permitted under their agreement with the agency, existing agency policy, or would be otherwise inconsistent with applicable law or regulation.

*Question 8.* At your hearing, you testified that you had a conversation with Mr. Musk at Mar-a-Lago in late 2024. I understand you told my staff this conversation pertained to Musk's DOGE efforts. What specifically did you discuss with Mr. Musk at Mar-a-Lago?

Answer. My conversation with Mr. Musk was unrelated to my interview with President Trump for the position of NASA Administrator. We discussed the possibility of me volunteering to support the Trump administration.

*Question 9.* According to a March 29, 2025, *Wall Street Journal* report titled, "Elon Musk's Mission to Take Over NASA—and Mars," Mr. Musk called you late last year and asked you to become the head of NASA. In your interview with my staff on April 3, 2025, you said this reporting was "1000 percent false."

Yes or No: Is the above reporting from the *Wall Street Journal* false?

Answer. Yes, that reporting is false.

*Question 10.* You testified at your hearing that you have not discussed your plans for NASA with Mr. Musk. For the record: Since November 5, 2024, have you ever discussed anything pertaining to NASA with Mr. Musk?

Answer. No.

*Question 11.* Since November 5, 2024, have you been on any text chains with Mr. Musk?

Answer. No.

*Question 12.* If your answer is yes to the above question, are any of these text chains conducted over a private messaging application like Signal?

Answer. N/A.

*Question 13.* Will you abide by all Federal records preservation and archiving laws, if confirmed?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 14.* How much money have you paid to SpaceX for the two spaceflights you purchased (Inspiration4 and Polaris Dawn)?

Answer. Pursuant to my ethics agreement, I have terminated all space flight service agreements that I had with SpaceX and all money paid to SpaceX for future missions has been refunded. Furthermore, pursuant to my ethics agreement, I am committed to ensuring that these funds are reinvested in non-conflicting passive invest-

ments. The amount I paid to SpaceX for past missions is subject to confidentiality obligations in my contractual agreements with SpaceX.

*Question 15.* According to a March 29, 2025, *Wall Street Journal* report titled, “Elon Musk’s Mission to Take Over NASA—and Mars,” you talk “frequently” with SpaceX executive Michael Altenhofen, who was recently named a NASA senior adviser.

Yes or No: Is the above reporting from the *Wall Street Journal* accurate?

Answer. No.

*Question 16.* What role and portfolio would Mr. Altenhofen hold at NASA under your leadership, if confirmed?

Answer. Senior Advisor to the Administrator—Aerospace Engineering.

**Legal.** I am aware you were detained by U.S. Custom and Border Patrol agents in 2010 on a warrant for drawing and passing checks without sufficient funds to a Las Vegas casino. I am aware you were also sued on four separate occasions around this time (2008–2010) in connection with casino debts and allegations of fraudulent checks, which I understand you dispute.

*Question 1.* Do you agree that violating legal obligations is unacceptable, irrespective of one’s ability to pay any fines or other related costs?

Answer. Yes—I agree that violating legal obligations is unacceptable, regardless of one’s financial means. That said, I believe some additional context is important. In my early 20s, I was fortunate to experience business success at a young age, and I spent time in casinos as an immature hobby. The legal matters referenced were, in fact, forms of negotiation and were all resolved promptly. The incident at the border, following my return from the Olympics, stemmed from a payment issue that had already been resolved, which is why I was detained for only a few hours.

I fully acknowledge this was a brief and immature period in my youth and a poor use of my time and resources. Since then, I’ve redirected my focus toward far more meaningful and productive pursuits—starting a family, building successful companies, developing an accomplished aviation and space career, and engaging in significant philanthropic efforts. I have always been transparent about these matters in all security clearance documentation and have held a clearance since 2013 without issue.

Mistakes made in youth don’t excuse poor decisions, but I believe growth, accountability, and public service are powerful ways to demonstrate how far one has come.

*Question 2.* Can you assure the Committee that this type of behavior is in your past?

Answer. Yes.

**Climate and Earth Science.** The Science Mission Directorate is an important part of NASA that funds scientists through more than 4,000 openly competed research awards—including many in the Earth Science Division. The Earth Science Division operates more than 20 satellites in orbit, sponsors hundreds of research programs and studies, and funds opportunities to put data to use for societal needs. NASA’s Climate Change webpage contains critical information based on NASA’s collection of long-term observations of the planet.

*Question 1.* Do you agree that man-made climate change is a real and serious issue?

Answer. I am not a climate scientist. My background is in business, aviation, and commercial space exploration. I am confident that the Earth’s climate has changed throughout its 4.5 billion year history. I believe in studying the causes and consequences of these changes to help mitigate the challenges we face on Earth as a result.

*Question 2.* Do you support NASA’s Earth Science Division and its efforts to develop cutting-edge sensors and data analysis technologies that can improve Earth observations important to climate science, weather modeling, resource management, and the mitigation and response to natural disasters such as wildfires?

Answer. I fully support NASA’s Earth Science Division and its work to advance technologies that improve our understanding of our planet and help respond to the challenges we face on Earth.

*Question 3.* Do you commit to supporting continued funding through the Earth Science Division for research programs and researchers focused on understanding complex Earth systems and their dynamic interactions?

Answer. I’m not currently aware of any proposed changes to the Earth Science Division’s budget. If confirmed, I will seek to better understand these programs and the contributions they make, and I will advocate for investments that are aligned with NASA’s mission and deliver meaningful value to the public.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** Mr. Isaacman, in the past you have seemed to implement diversity, equity, and inclusion initiatives into your personal and professional life. You stated prior to the Inspiration4 mission that you did not want to send “four rich white guys” to space and you also implemented DEI policies at your companies, Draken and Shift4.

*Question 1.* Do you still value diversity in the workplace?

Answer. I value a merit-based culture that results in the most capable team that reflects excellence, commitment, and character—regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

*Question 2.* In your interview with my staff, you said we need the “best and brightest” at NASA. I agree. How did the DEI policies at Draken and Shift4 benefit your multi-million-and billion-dollar companies, and do you think similar policies could benefit the mission of NASA?

Answer. I value a merit-based culture that results in the most capable team that reflects excellence, commitment, and character—regardless of race, gender, or sexual orientation.

*Question 3.* Do you think that targeting and eliminating DEI programs and policies will discourage the “best and brightest” from wanting to work at NASA?

Answer. I was not involved in any decisions to remove specific DEI programs, but I believe that when NASA focuses on bold, challenging missions, it will naturally attract high-caliber individuals from all backgrounds who want to be part of something extraordinary.

*Question 4.* NASA websites no longer state that the Artemis 3 lunar mission will aim to land the first person of color and the first woman on the moon—a long-standing goal of the Artemis program since the first Trump Administration. What message do you think it sends to the engineers, mathematicians, and scientists of tomorrow that NASA has taken this step to remove this language from the objectives?

Answer. I was not involved in the decision to remove that language. What I do know is that it has been over 50 years since Americans last walked on the Moon, and despite commitments from every President since 1989—and over \$100 billion invested—we still haven’t returned. Fixing that challenge should be our highest priority. If we can’t get back to the Moon in an economic and safe way, then it won’t matter who the crew is. Mission success, especially at an agency like NASA, will ultimately open the door to broader participation and lasting inspiration for future generations.

**Campaign Contributions.** You made a \$2 million contribution to the Trump-Vance Inaugural Committee on November 27, 2024. One week later, then-President-elect Trump posted on Truth Social his intention to nominate you for the NASA Administrator role.

*Question 1.* Did anyone suggest to you that a contribution to President Trump’s Inaugural Committee would position you to be nominated for a position in his Administration? If so, who?

Answer. I reject the premise of this question, and no one ever suggested that a contribution would position me for a nomination.

*Question 2.* In July 2024, you posted on X that you “have never been in love with either candidate for President.” At what point did this opinion change?

Answer. That comment was part of a longer, multi-paragraph post that deserves proper context. In it, I expressed outrage over the assassination attempt and made clear that such violence has no place in the world’s greatest democracy. I also stated that I believed President Trump would be our next President and wished him well in unifying and leading the Nation.

To be clear, my position has not changed. I’ve never claimed to “love” politics, but I have consistently supported President Trump.

**Tariffs.** President Trump’s tariffs are raising the cost of living, crashing the stock market, and causing uncertainty for our business community. As you pointed out in your testimony, most NASA programs are “over budget and behind schedule.”

*Question 1.* Are you concerned that potential scarcity and cost increases within the aerospace manufacturing supply chain caused by tariffs will contribute to further delays and budget overruns?

Answer. I am not deeply familiar with the full details of NASA’s aerospace supply chain, but I would assume that, given the dual-use nature of many space technologies, most of NASA’s hardware is manufactured and assembled in the United States. That domestic base likely provides a degree of insulation from tariff-related volatility, though I would want to better understand the nuances if confirmed.

*Question 2.* Tariffs pose a particular challenge for small companies, which cannot absorb cost increases as easily as big contractors. Are you concerned that some start-up NASA partners will be unable to survive the uncertainty and disruption caused by the Administration's trade war?

Answer. I support the President's broader objective of reducing the trade deficit and bringing more high-quality manufacturing jobs back to the United States. As someone who has led a public company for many years, I've learned that leadership requires looking beyond short-term market volatility to focus on long-term impact.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BRIAN SCHATZ TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

### **Support for Space Science**

Space science is the cornerstone of NASA's work, driving achievements and discovery and we face growing competition from China in space science investments.

*Question 1.* Will you commit to increasing investment and providing not less than the FY25 Senate level of \$7.576 billion for space science in the NASA budget, including in the fields of astrophysics, planetary science, earth science, lunar science, and heliophysics?

Answer. I am deeply passionate about science and spoke extensively about its importance during the hearing. If confirmed, I will advocate for strong investment in space science—across astrophysics, planetary science, Earth science, lunar science, and heliophysics—and for securing as much funding as the government can reasonably allocate. I also believe we should look to amplify these efforts through partnerships with international partners, commercial industry, and academia whenever possible.

### **Support for Astronomical Science**

NASA's astrophysical observatories have received bipartisan support over decades. They are also areas where international partnerships will become increasingly important to bring the scale of investment needed to support advanced scientific infrastructure.

*Question 2.* Will you commit to continuing NASA's leadership in astronomy and ensuring a full return on investment by supporting the full cost of operations for the Hubble Space Telescope and the James Webb Space Telescope?

Answer. I am a strong believer in maximizing the value of instruments that have already been built, funded, and are producing meaningful scientific returns. The James Webb Space Telescope, Hubble, and Chandra all fall into this category. I've publicly supported each of these observatories and believe their continued operation is essential to advancing our understanding of the universe. I'm generally opposed to small-scale funding cuts that reduce the return on decades of investment in world-class scientific tools.

*Question 3.* Will you commit to supporting the completion of the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope?

Answer. To my knowledge, the Nancy Grace Roman Space Telescope is nearing completion and remains on schedule and within budget—something that is unfortunately rare for flagship programs at the agency. I'm not aware of any reason why it should be canceled, and I would support its completion and successful deployment.

*Question 4.* Will you commit to funding for the Habitable Worlds Observatory?

Answer. I'm intrigued by the Habitable Worlds Observatory and the promise it holds, but I would need to learn more before making a commitment. My understanding is that it's not expected to launch until the 2040s. While I support the mission concept, I would also want to explore whether aspects of its scientific objectives can be accelerated through other near-term opportunities.

*Question 5.* What role do you think international partnerships similar to those in the Habitable Worlds Observatory will play out in the future?

Answer. I value international partnerships when they are focused, well-managed, and aligned around achieving ambitious goals. Collaboration can be a powerful multiplier when each partner is fully committed and accountable. However, I don't believe in pursuing partnerships simply for the optics—results matter. Effective international collaboration will continue to play an important role in NASA's future, especially for large-scale science missions and deep space exploration.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. EDWARD MARKEY TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

**Elon Musk**

In your nominations hearing, you repeatedly refused to answer whether Elon Musk was in the meet when then-President-elect Donald Trump offered you the position of NASA administrator. I want to give you another opportunity to clarify that question.

*Question 1.* Was Elon Musk in the room when then-President-elect Donald Trump offered you the position of NASA administrator?

Answer. My interview was with the President of the United States. The person asking me questions—and ultimately offering me the opportunity—was the President himself.

*Question 2.* How many other people were in the room when then-President-elect Donald Trump offered you the position of NASA administrator?

Answer. My interview was with the President of the United States. The person asking me questions—and ultimately offering me the opportunity—was the President himself.

*Question 3.* Did Elon Musk say anything when then-President-elect Donald Trump offered you the position of NASA administrator? If so, please describe those conversations.

Answer. My interview was with the President of the United States. The person asking me questions—and ultimately offering me the opportunity—was the President himself.

*Question 4.* The *Wall Street Journal* reported in March that Elon Musk called you “late last year” and asked whether you would become the head of NASA. Is that reporting accurate? If not, please describe any inaccuracies.

Answer. No, that reporting is entirely false. Mr. Musk never called me to discuss becoming NASA Administrator, nor did we have any conversations about Mars-related objectives. The only call I received regarding this position came from Secretary Lutnick, who was serving as co-chair of the transition team. That phone interview ultimately led to my in-person meeting and interview with President Trump.

**NASA Reduction in Force**

Mr. Isaacman, I am deeply troubled by the recent, seemingly rushed decision to dissolve the Office of the Chief Scientist and the Office of Technology, Policy and Strategy at NASA. The reported abrupt termination of approximately 15 dedicated civil servants, individuals with decades of invaluable experience across NASA’s diverse centers and missions, is particularly concerning. These individuals, vital to providing unbiased, science-driven analysis, were given a mere 30-day notice of their Reduction in Force, a move that alarmingly predated any broader restructuring plan or even the Agency’s own submission to OPM for such action. This raises serious questions about the rationale behind this decision, and whether it represents a troubling disregard for scientific expertise and the critical role these public servants play in ensuring NASA’s mission is based on sound, evidence-based policy.

*Question 1.* Given my concerns about the abrupt dissolution of these offices and the loss of non-partisan, experienced civil servants providing “unbiased, science-driven analysis,” as the potential next Administrator, would you have valued having these offices and their expertise to support you in leading NASA? Recognizing these non-political civil servants provided mission-driven, agenda-free contributions to agency-wide strategy and policy development, distinct from the term appointees who led them, how would you ensure such valuable expertise is retained and utilized under your leadership?

Answer. Over the last 26 years, I’ve founded, led, and grown two successful companies, including acquiring and reorganizing organizations to improve performance. I take great pride in assembling high-performing teams and retaining top talent—whether in business, aerospace, or human spaceflight. If confirmed, I intend to bring that same approach to NASA.

Regarding the offices that were closed, I was not involved in those decisions. If confirmed, I will review the rationale behind those closures and evaluate whether the agency is retaining and properly utilizing the expertise necessary to support NASA’s mission and strategic planning efforts.

*Question 2.* If confirmed, would you commit to reviewing the decision to terminate these civil servants and prioritize their reinstatement to appropriate positions within NASA? This would ensure the agency retains their valuable experience and maintains continuity in its scientific and strategic planning efforts.

Answer. As noted in my previous answer, if confirmed, I will review the rationale behind these decisions and assess whether reinstating any of these individuals would strengthen the agency's ability to deliver on its mission.

#### **NASA Heliophysics and Decadal Survey Priorities**

Mr. Isaacman, Massachusetts was proud to see our homegrown Lunar Environment heliospheric X-ray Imager (LEXI), developed by students and faculty at Boston University, successfully land on the Moon aboard NASA's Blue Ghost Mission 1 spacecraft in March. LEXI is now sending back invaluable global images of the interaction between the solar wind and Earth's magnetic field—data that is essential to understanding the space environment around our planet.

Heliophysics research is foundational to protecting our infrastructure, ensuring astronaut safety, and supporting the success of both human and robotic missions in space.

*Question 1.* Given the release of the 2024 Solar and Space Physics Decadal Survey, how do you plan to support NASA's Heliophysics Division and advance its top priorities, including sustaining the Diversify, Realize, Integrate, Venture, Educate (DRIVE) initiative and expanding the cadence of the Heliophysics Explorers program, particularly the Small Explorer (SMEX) and Mid-sized Explorer (MIDEX) missions and Missions of Opportunity (MO)?

Answer. I believe NASA should be a force multiplier for science. Advancing affordable, high-impact discovery must be a top priority. I'm very supportive of SMEX, MIDEX, and similar initiatives that can increase the cadence of meaningful scientific returns in a cost-effective way. If confirmed, I would look forward to working closely with the Heliophysics Division, academic institutions, and other partners to help implement the priorities outlined in the Decadal Survey and accelerate the rate of breakthrough discoveries.

*Question 2.* Do you agree that strategic investments in Heliophysics should remain a key priority for NASA?

Answer. Given how central the sun is to our existence, it makes sense that we'd want to know as much about it as possible.

#### **NASA Science Mission Directorate Funding**

Mr. Isaacman, NASA's science missions are foundational to the agency's global leadership in space and to the public's trust in its work. Programs like the Great Observatories—including Chandra, which is operated out of my home state of Massachusetts—provide essential data on everything from newborn stars to galaxy clusters, which cannot be captured from Earth. It supports approximately 200 jobs requiring highly specialized X-ray expertise.

You've previously expressed support for these observatories. However, we've seen repeated attempts to siphon funds from the Science Mission Directorate to cover cost overruns in the Artemis program. That approach undermines NASA's long-term scientific mission.

*Question 1.* Given the importance of NASA Science to the nation, can you commit that, under your leadership, funding for the Artemis program will not come at the expense of the Science Mission Directorate which manage flagship observatories like Chandra?

Answer. As you've noted, I've been very public in my support for exploration assets like Chandra that continue to generate meaningful scientific returns. I don't believe in cutting small-dollar programs that are delivering real value—especially in science. If confirmed, I will advocate for protecting those investments and ensuring that science remains a core pillar of NASA's mission, even as we pursue ambitious goals through Artemis and other human spaceflight programs.

#### **NASA and Climate Data**

Mr. Isaacman, from monitoring sea-level rise to polar ice loss to wildfires, NASA's satellites are the backbone of climate research used by scientists, policymakers, and the public across the globe.

NASA's Earth Observing System collects and archives more than 147 terabytes of data each day. This data underpins climate action efforts at every level of government, drives global research collaborations, and informs life-saving disaster response. It's a public good relied on by communities worldwide.

Yet the Trump administration is undermining that work. A recent investigation found that large swaths of climate datasets, visualizations, and web tools—once publicly accessible—have been altered or taken down. This unprecedented rollback of public information compromises scientific continuity and transparency at a time of accelerating climate threats and extreme weather events.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, will you commit to fully restoring and maintaining access to data as well as resisting any political pressure to sideline climate research?

Answer. As I mentioned during the hearing, I am not currently aware of any restrictions related to public access to NASA data, but if confirmed, I would look into this matter closely. I strongly support Earth Science and believe the data NASA collects can play a critical role in supporting the agriculture industry and mitigating the impacts of wildfires, droughts, flooding, and other natural hazards.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. GARY PETERS TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

*Question 1.* Mr. Isaacman, I was happy to hear you say in the hearing that it is a fundamental responsibility of NASA to inspire the next generation. I agree that NASA's missions play a key role in doing so. The NASA Office of STEM Engagement also develops the next generation of scientists by providing for Michigan's Space Grant Consortium, which funds graduate fellowships, undergraduate research grants, faculty research grants, educational programs at the K-12 level, and NASA internships.

President Trump's previous NASA Administrator proposed zeroing out the budget for NASA's Office of STEM Engagement—something Congress blocked. A failure to invest in the next generation hamstringing U.S. competitiveness and makes it difficult to build on the work we have already invested billions in.

If confirmed, are you committed to continuing funding for NASA's STEM education programing? Do you agree that it is important for NASA to fund workforce initiatives that ultimately support their exploration accounts?

Answer. I hope my track record—both through my human spaceflight missions and my financial support for programs like Space Camp—makes clear how much I value STEM education. As I emphasized during the hearing, it all begins with completing the mission. It's been over half a century since Americans last walked on the Moon. Until we deliver on those goals, we are not living up to our full inspirational potential.

That said, I strongly support STEM initiatives that get students excited about science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

*Question 2.* Mr. Isaacman you've mentioned your passion for science and shared that you believe President Trump is hoping to usher in a golden age of science.

I remain deeply concerned about potential budget and staffing cuts that would only favor funding for the exploration account. A fundamental part of the Artemis missions are its science missions which seek to better understand lunar resources in preparation of sending humans to the moon. Beyond supporting exploration efforts NASA's science budget includes programs to research things like space weather which impacts our everyday lives.

Recent reporting suggests that OMB is planning to propose cutting NASA's Science budget by \$3.4 billion, or about 45 percent. Do you think these cuts would reduce science capacity at the agency to unlock the future of space?

Answer. I have not been privy to any internal budgetary planning or decision making conversations at the agency. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing OMB's recommendations and working with Congress to determine the appropriate level of funding to ensure NASA can execute its mission. That said, I will always be an advocate for NASA and its science portfolio.

*Question 3.* Recent reporting suggests that OMB is planning to propose cutting NASA's Science budget by \$3.4 billion, or about 45 percent. If confirmed, will you commit to pushing back on OMB and the President if they recommend these cuts?

Answer. I have not been privy to any internal budgetary planning or decision making conversations at the agency. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing OMB's recommendations and working with Congress to determine the appropriate level of funding to ensure NASA can execute its mission. That said, I will always be an advocate for NASA and its science portfolio.

*Question 4.* Mr. Isaacman, in the hearing you stated your commitment to following existing law which directs the NASA Administrator to "establish a program to develop a sustained human presence in cis-lunar space or on the Moon". You also mentioned that you do not believe that the Space Launch System is a good long-term option for getting astronauts to and from the moon with great frequency. Commercial heavy lift launch vehicles have been suggested as potential alternatives for future missions to and from, but work is still being done to make them fully operational. What do you envision as the future alternative to the SLS and how will you

ensure that NASA has the necessary resources to partner with commercial companies and invest in these alternatives?

Answer. As I've said before, I believe the SLS and existing Artemis architecture represent the fastest way to get American astronauts back to the Moon. But over the long term, it's not a sustainable or affordable solution. Fortunately, the commercial launch market is stronger than ever. Since SLS was first established, companies like Blue Origin, ULA, SpaceX, and Rocket Lab have made major investments in heavy-lift capabilities. Competition drives down costs and accelerates innovation. In that respect, at some point the government will need to move on from competing with commercial industry in launch and invest in the next generation spaceship technology, what no other agency or organization is capable of delivering, like the practical application of nuclear propulsion.

*Question 5.* Programs and contracts like those in Artemis support thousands of jobs across the U.S. manufacturing supply chain. This is extremely important in Michigan especially where suppliers are critical to NASA's mission and goals. Any cuts to NASA programs equate to job cuts in Michigan and across the country.

Do you agree that part of the role NASA's programs can and do play is to strengthen critical national security manufacturing supply chains and jobs in aerospace?

Answer. Absolutely—but I also believe that every partner, vendor, and program must deliver. We should be paying for results and holding all stakeholders accountable when expectations aren't met. I'm not putting all the responsibility on contractors—NASA's own program management plays a role as well. But no one should be satisfied that every President since 1989 has called for a return to the Moon and a path to Mars, and despite more than \$100 billion invested across Constellation and Artemis, we have yet to fly a single crewed mission around the Moon let alone land on it. That must change.

*Question 6.* Every year I coordinate a bipartisan letter to our Appropriations Commerce, Science, and Justice subcommittee asking that they support the funding necessary to ensure Artemis missions can launch on time. Delays in the launch schedule not only delay scientific discovery but can lead to additional costs.

What is your plan to ensure that NASA has the necessary resources to maintain Artemis' launch schedule? If your plan is to speed up the launch schedule, how exactly do you plan to do so?

Answer. My approach is shaped by 26 years of experience leading high-performance teams in business, along with a background in aerospace and commercial space. I've built companies from the ground up, led acquisitions and turnarounds, and flown to space twice on record-breaking missions. What I've learned is that results don't come from slogans or slide decks—they come from leadership that's present, hands-on, and relentlessly focused on mission execution. NASA knows this better than anyone—based on what has been accomplished historically—we just need to restore that mission-first culture.

If confirmed, I'll roll up my sleeves, get in the trenches with the team, and lead a cultural and program management transformation. We'll take a hard look at the real problems—both internal and external—that slow progress and put timelines and budgets at risk. Key areas of focus will include:

- Reducing organizational bureaucracy to streamline communication and accelerate decision-making
- Strengthening program management with clear ownership, defined timelines, and measurable results
- Driving vendor accountability through transparent performance metrics and consequences when expectations—especially those owed to taxpayers—are not met
- Reinforcing a culture of urgency and ownership at every level of the agency—we don't go home until the day's problem is solved because no one else will solve it for us—and then we do it all over again the next day NASA has the talent and resources to achieve the near-impossible. But when major programs fall behind, it delays world-changing discoveries, fails to meet our inspirational obligations, and undermines the credibility of the agency the public entrusts with its hope for future generations.

*Question 7.* Mr. Isaacman, we have seen massive reductions in staffing across agencies. Earlier this year it was reported that NASA negotiated with the Office of Personnel Management to avoid mass layoffs. Additionally, there are reports that up to 5 percent of NASA's staff already accepted a buyout agreement.

We have also heard that NASA staff are awaiting a realignment plan that will further reduce NASA staffing numbers. You have big plans for NASA, but I fail to see how we achieve them if we are not retaining talent.

What is your plan to ensure that NASA remains sufficiently staffed? How do you plan to do that in an environment where NASA's budget decreases?

Answer. If confirmed, I hope to be in a position to lead these discussions thoughtfully and constructively. As I stated in my prepared remarks, I'm stepping away from my business career—and my commercial spaceflight career—because I believe I owe a debt to this Nation and want to contribute to NASA's extraordinary mission.

I'm not here for a title. I'm here to help the agency, not dismantle it. And if NASA is working on what no other organization on Earth can accomplish—world-changing missions—I believe it will continue to attract and retain the talent it needs to succeed.

*Question 8.* Have you communicated with—including over messaging app, e-mail, or in person—Elon Musk since accepting your nomination?

Answer. No.

*Question 8a.* If yes, what was the substance of the communication?

Answer. N/A.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY BALDWIN TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

### **1. Inspiring the Next Generation of STEM Professionals**

Each year, the Wisconsin Space Grant Consortium hosts an annual First Nations Launch National Rocket Competition. This competition serves as an opportunity for students at Tribal Colleges and Universities, Native American-Serving Nontribal Institutions, and members of American Indian Science and Engineering Society chapters to gain experience and explore engineering and design principles to inspire these students to pursue careers in aerospace.

If confirmed, will you support programs, such as the First Nations Launch National Rocket Competition, that encourage, inspire and train students from diverse backgrounds to pursue careers in aerospace and STEM?

Answer. While I am not directly familiar with the First Nations Launch National Rocket Competition, I firmly believe it is a core obligation of NASA to inspire the next generation to join the adventure and reach even higher. I am a strong advocate for STEM programs—especially those that deliver high-impact outcomes from relatively small investments.

### **2. Role of Commercial Space Industry**

In your testimony, you briefly discussed the importance of determining the future of the space economy before the de-orbiting of the International Space Station.

Why do you believe scientific innovation alone is not justification to continue investing in the ISS or future space stations? What do you picture the future of the space economy to look like and what economic value do you envision discovering if you are confirmed? What role do you believe commercial space companies should play in determining the economic activity in space?

Answer. Like millions of others, I envision a future where humanity becomes a spacefaring civilization, rich in scientific discovery and exploration. But I'm also realistic—budgets are not unlimited. For space to reach its full potential, we must unlock its economic value. If the ISS or future space stations are to continue operating in the long term, they cannot rely solely on government funding; there must be a pathway toward sustainable commercial engagement.

If confirmed, I would welcome input from the best and brightest across NASA, academia, and industry. In the near term, I believe the greatest opportunities are in the pharmaceutical and biotech sectors, where the microgravity environment can yield breakthroughs. Over the medium term, mineral extraction and on-orbit manufacturing may also become economically viable.

Commercial space companies should play an active and collaborative role in shaping this future. Alongside international partners and academic institutions, they can help identify the highest-potential science and research that will ignite a true space economy. NASA's role should be to lead, convene, and help de-risk that future—while keeping its focus on what no other agency or organization can accomplish.

### **3. NASA Budget**

It has been reported that the preliminary version of President Donald Trump's budget calls for a cut of 47 percent to NASA science.

If NASA's budget is cut by 47 percent, how would this impact future science projects at NASA? Would any projects be fully terminated?

Answer. If confirmed, I look forward to reviewing OMB's recommendations and working with Congress to determine the appropriate level of funding to ensure NASA can execute its mission. That said, I will always be an advocate for NASA and its science portfolio.

#### 4. Conflicts of Interests

During your hearing, you refused to answer whether Elon Musk was in the room when President Trump interviewed you and offered you the NASA Administrator appointment.

*Question 4a.* To your knowledge did Elon Musk recommend your nomination to President Trump?

*Question 4b.* Do you believe it would have been improper for Elon Musk, who holds extensive contracts with NASA and deep conflicts of interest, to be in attendance for a nominee's interview with the President for the NASA Administrator appointment? If no, why?

Answer to 4a and 4b. I've heard that several retired Generals and Admirals I worked with while running my defense company had recommended me for different positions. I also had just returned—about two months before my nomination—from a record-breaking space mission. During that mission, my crew and I traveled farther from Earth than any humans in more than half a century. Two of my crewmates became the women who have traveled farthest from Earth, and we conducted dozens of research experiments, tested a new EVA suit during a 'spacewalk', and pioneered next-generation communications—all widely covered in the media. So, while the nomination personally came as a surprise and an honor, it does not seem that unusual that my name was being circulated.

It is not my place to speculate on hypothetical situations. As I've said previously, my interview was with the President of the United States. He asked the questions, and he made the decision.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JACKY ROSEN TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

#### Future of Space Stations

The request for proposals for phase two of the Commercial Low Earth Orbit Development Program is expected to define NASA's level of investment and commitment, awarding contracts to two or more commercial providers to ensure redundancy and competition for services, which are essential to driving innovation and economic growth.

*Question 1.* Given the critical need for these providers to be operational before the ISS deorbits, if confirmed, how do you plan to ensure the timely development and deployment of these stations?

Answer. There are two parallel priorities I would focus on if confirmed.

First, we need to prioritize the highest-potential science and research on the ISS that could help "crack the code" on a sustainable orbital economy. These commercial stations won't succeed unless there's a strong value proposition in space, and NASA has a role to play in identifying and advancing the research that could unlock it—particularly in sectors like biotech, pharmaceuticals, and advanced manufacturing.

Second, we need to identify and clear the obstacles currently holding back commercial providers—whether they're technical, financial, regulatory, or bureaucratic. That means working closely with the companies involved, understanding where delays or hardships are occurring, and eliminating roadblocks wherever possible.

We are on the clock with the ISS's end of life timeline. If confirmed, I will do all I can to bring urgency and focus to ensuring a successful transition that doesn't leave a gap in our presence in low Earth orbit or jeopardize the emergence of a true space economy.

#### NASA's Commitment to Commercial LEO Destinations (CLDs) Project

Commercial space companies have expressed concerns about overburdensome requirements, regulatory delays, indemnification, and the unpredictability of NASA's commitment to Commercial LEO Destinations project.

*Question 1.* How will you ensure continuous presence in space and prevent a funding or policy gap that could undermine the success of these private space stations?

Answer. One of the greatest accomplishments of the ISS has been its ability to sustain human life in low Earth orbit over long durations. Meanwhile, the cost of

transporting astronauts to and from LEO has come down significantly from prior generation vehicles like Shuttle. So, the challenge today isn't launch—it's the *economic viability* of commercial LEO destinations.

As currently contemplated, these future stations will rely in part on government subsidies, but that model is unlikely to be sustainable in the absence of a real on-orbit economy. That's why I emphasized during my testimony how critical it is to maximize the remaining life of the ISS—not just to continue exploration, but to crack the code on the space economy and give commercial providers the best possible chance to succeed. If confirmed, I'll prioritize this effort and do all I can to ensure a seamless transition that avoids a gap in presence and purpose in LEO.

*Question 2.* Given your private sector background, what changes would you advocate for in NASA's approach to managing technical requirements, cost, schedule, and risk to make it more agile and commercially friendly while maintaining accountability?

Answer. To start, I'm not convinced the current system enforces any real accountability. Programs run over budget, fall behind schedule, and the only consequence seems to be cancellation. That's not sustainable for an agency with world-changing goals.

If confirmed, I will get in the trenches to understand the root causes. It's clear that bureaucratic layers have formed—often serving their own preservation rather than the mission. In the private sector, resources—whether people, capital, infrastructure, or leadership—are aligned around clear goals with defined outcomes and performance metrics. That makes it easy to spot when something is off track and implement course corrections early.

I intend to bring that mindset and my experience running two large, successful companies—including in aerospace—into NASA. The agency doesn't lack talent or capability; it needs a clearer alignment between mission and execution, and a mission-first culture that values execution, ownership and urgency. That's how we'll restore momentum and complete the ambitious goals the Nation expects from NASA.

#### **NASA EPSCoR Funding**

One of my top priorities in Congress is supporting growth in STEM fields by investing in education and workforce training that will bolster STEM opportunities for everyone. As you know, NASA EPSCoR is a joint federal-state program designed to allow more states to participate in space and aeronautics research. In Nevada, schools such as the University of Nevada, Reno and the Desert Research Institute rely on NASA EPSCoR seed funding for research and scholarships in order to enhance STEM opportunities.

*Question 1.* How can Congress further support the EPSCoR program and ensure NASA can continue to grow the program's reach and its diversity in scientific research?

Answer. As I mentioned during my testimony, NASA has a fundamental obligation to inspire the next generation to join this grand adventure and aim even higher. That inspiration starts by getting back to the mission—landing astronauts on the Moon and Mars, launching new telescopes, and delivering breakthrough scientific discoveries that captivate the world.

But inspiration alone isn't enough—we also need to provide pathways for participation. Programs like EPSCoR are essential because they help connect students and researchers from underserved regions and institutions to the opportunities that NASA provides.

#### **Initiatives in STEM Funding**

I'm proud to have introduced several bipartisan STEM-related bills over the past several years, including my STEM RESTART Act with Senator Hyde-Smith, the Rural STEM Act with Senator Wicker—which was included in the CHIPS and Science Act—and the Building Blocks of STEM Act with Senator Capito, which was signed into law in the 116th Congress. However, there is still more work to be done, particularly in breaking down barriers that stand in the way of students of all ages and backgrounds from pursuing STEM education and STEM careers.

*Question 1.* How can NASA work to break down barriers to young people in STEM so that in the future you have the workforce you need to continue to make scientific breakthroughs?

Answer. I firmly believe that if NASA can deliver on the mission—what no other agency or organization on Earth can achieve—then recruiting, retention, STEM engagement, and inspiration will largely take care of themselves. That's the first step: accomplish bold, world-changing goals that ignite imagination and ambition.

But we also have to create tangible pathways for participation that also serve NASA's mission. As I mentioned in my remarks, NASA should be a force multiplier

for science—leveraging its talent, infrastructure, and partnerships to push down opportunities to academia.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

*Question 1.* I recently introduced legislation to hold special government employees, like Elon Musk, accountable and prevent them from acting in their own financial interest. I'm concerned to hear media releases that discuss SpaceX's connection to China, specifically, the article published March 26, 2025, titled "How Elon Musk's SpaceX Secretly Allows Investment from China," which details how investors from China buy stakes in the company as long as funds are routed through offshore hubs. As you know, Musk's company SpaceX has been awarded many NASA contracts, including their human lander system (HLS) for the Artemis moon missions. I understand that the contracting officer at NASA who awarded SpaceX this contract now works for SpaceX overseeing the Starship development. *Do you believe that companies with contracts like the HLS should receive investment from China? Will NASA proactively identify and mitigate conflicts of interest and enforce government transparency?*

Answer. I'm not familiar with the specific article or any related claims regarding a particular vendor. That said, I would hope that NASA—and the broader U.S. government—have implemented the appropriate safeguards to ensure open, fair competition while also protecting against influence from geopolitical adversaries. If confirmed, you can count on my full commitment to protecting American interests, ensuring transparency, and maintaining a level playing field that advances our national security and space leadership.

*Question 2.* Commercial providers have put forth faster and cheaper solutions than the current NASA architecture has laid out. *If confirmed, can you ensure that NASA will fairly consider all commercial procurement options to fund multiple industry concepts through early design phases to maximize innovation?*

Answer. Competition is a core ingredient of our economic system—and I'm a strong believer in its power to drive both innovation and affordability. If confirmed, I will ensure that NASA remains open to new ideas and that we create space for commercial solutions to be evaluated fairly, particularly in early-phase development where multiple concepts can unlock future capability and cost efficiencies.

*Question 3.* Congress has consistently supported the development of a sustainable Low-Earth Orbit (LEO) economy, including utilizing microgravity research, space-based manufacturing, and human spaceflight, while leveraging commercial platforms to reduce government costs and expand market opportunities. *What role do you see for NASA in ensuring the United States is a leader in capabilities such as space-based manufacturing and microgravity research?*

Answer. As I stated in my prepared remarks and throughout my testimony, unlocking a sustainable space economy is imperative. After more than 60 years of space exploration, the space economy remains centered around launch, observation, and communications—largely funded by government contracts. That is not enough for the future we all imagine in space.

If confirmed, I will prioritize identifying the highest-potential science and research opportunities—especially in areas like biotechnology, pharmaceutical development, and on-orbit manufacturing—and work closely with commercial partners, academia, and international allies to help ignite a true economic engine in space.

*Question 4.* NASA's Commercial Low-Earth Orbit Development Program is critical to ensuring that China does not surpass the U.S. in leadership in LEO. The recently introduced NASA Transition Authorization Act pushes NASA to down select to two commercial providers by March of 2026, with one being operational by 2030. *What actions will you take to ensure an orderly transition to commercial space stations to maintain our continuous human presence? What are the key challenges you foresee in ensuring there is no gap in human presence in LEO, and how should NASA support a smooth handover to commercial platforms?*

Answer. Keeping astronauts alive in space for long durations is one of the ISS's greatest achievements. Meanwhile, the cost of launching to and from LEO has declined steadily over the decades. So the challenge isn't the continuous 'heart beat' in space—it's the *economic viability* of commercial space stations.

As they are currently structured, many commercial platforms are expected to rely on government subsidies, yet we haven't seen a self-sustaining on-orbit economy emerge. That's why, during my testimony, I emphasized the importance of making the most of the ISS's remaining lifespan—to help crack the code on the space econ-

omy and give commercial providers the best possible shot at success. If confirmed, I will make this a priority and ensure NASA provides the technical, logistical, and strategic support needed for a seamless transition.

*Question 5.* Will you commit to supporting the development of a national strategy for commercial spaceports, funding for spaceports, and best practices that could be led by NASA?

Answer. I believe it is a national security vulnerability to have too few facilities for the launch and recovery of space vehicles. If confirmed, I would work with the Department of Defense, FAA, and other stakeholders to ensure the United States has the infrastructure capacity to meet the growing demands of national security, commercial, and civil space operations.

*Question 6.* The Suborbital Crew Program (SubC) offers government employees, including NASA astronauts and researchers, the opportunity to train aboard sub-orbital vehicles as a part of their preparations for longer-duration missions. The SubC program is also a way for astronauts to practice on experiments they might be conducting in microgravity in the future. *Can you provide an update and explain your support for utilizing additional flight training in space and more time in microgravity for our NASA astronauts and researchers through the SubC program?* After all, the first American in space flew a suborbital mission and we can all agree on the benefits Alan Shepherd's flight had on the future of the Astronaut Corps.

Answer. Suborbital spaceflight offers meaningful microgravity experience at significantly lower cost and likely lower risk than orbital missions. It's an efficient capability that we should be using to prepare astronauts and researchers for longer-duration missions and experiment validation.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN HICKENLOOPER TO  
JARED ISAACMAN

### **STEM & Science Missions**

NASA's missions fulfill national goals and advance science. From the Artemis Mission to return to the moon, the Hubble and James Webb Space Telescopes, and returning samples collected from asteroids and Mars, space is a powerful tool to attract students to STEM fields.

*Question 1.* Mr. Isaacman, in what way could these key NASA missions inspire the next generation of scientists?

Answer. Exactly right—NASA inspires by doing the mission. When we accomplish the near-impossible, when we explore the unknown and deliver breakthrough discoveries, we ignite the imagination of the next generation. That's how students choose to pursue science, technology, engineering, and math—not just because they're told to, but because they want to be part of something bold and meaningful.

Hubble has inspired the world for decades. Now it's time to get the next generation of telescopes into orbit—and astronauts on the Moon and eventually Mars. That's how we continue the cycle of inspiration and achievement.

*Question 2.* If confirmed, will you commit to prioritizing the advancement of NASA's existing portfolio of science and STEM missions, including funding new and existing space telescopes and partnerships with academic institutions?

Answer. Consistent with my testimony, I want NASA to be a force multiplier for science. That means launching more missions—more telescopes, more probes, more rovers—and deepening partnerships with academia (and their healthy endowments) to ensure students and researchers are active participants in that work.

If confirmed, you can expect me to be a passionate advocate for science. The discoveries we make—and the way we make them—are foundational to both our national competitiveness and our ability to inspire future generations.

### **Artemis and Gateway**

NASA is currently partnering with commercial space companies to return astronauts to the moon and establish an orbiting lunar outpost that can be used for scientific research and as a pathway for missions to Mars.

*Question 3.* How do you plan to prioritize exploration on the Moon under the Artemis Program, led by NASA in collaboration with commercial partners?

Answer. As I've stated in previous responses and during my testimony, I believe the current Artemis architecture is the fastest path to landing American astronauts back on the Moon—something every President has called for since 1989. That said, it's clear the program has struggled with cost, schedule, and execution. Over \$100 billion has been invested in this effort, and yet we still haven't flown humans around the Moon let alone landing on it.

If confirmed, I will focus on getting Artemis back on track. That means working alongside NASA leadership, commercial partners, and program managers to address the root causes of delays—bureaucracy, program misalignment, and lack of accountability—and restoring a mission-first culture across the agency. We must deliver results, demonstrate progress, and prove to the world that NASA can once again achieve the extraordinary.

*Question 4.* If confirmed, how will you plan for human exploration on Mars while maintaining a consistent lunar presence?

Answer. Artemis is the current plan, but that doesn't preclude parallel efforts to pursue the President's inspiring and ambitious goal of sending American astronauts to Mars. In fact, many of the technologies and capabilities NASA is already investing in—such as surface nuclear power systems, nuclear electric propulsion, and nuclear thermal propulsion—are highly relevant for Mars exploration, though they remain underfunded and subscale. Additionally, commercial partners under Artemis are developing very heavy-lift launch vehicles that could support both lunar and Mars missions.

#### **Mission Priorities**

The Mars Sample Return mission is key to advancing our understanding of the red planet. NASA also conducts missions that observe the Earth to help support water conservation, forest health, and crop management.

*Question 5.* How will you balance NASA's priorities between planetary exploration and Earth Science missions?

Answer. I am passionate about all of NASA's science and exploration missions—including both planetary and Earth sciences. Prioritizing these efforts isn't about choosing one over the other, but rather about identifying where the greatest breakthroughs are possible.

Some of this prioritization is guided by the decadal survey process, which I fully respect. But if confirmed, I would work closely with NASA's experts and stakeholders to evaluate missions based on their scientific promise, potential economic value, and relevance to national security. Whether we're uncovering the secrets of other worlds or advancing our understanding of Earth, the goal is the same: to deliver meaningful, world-changing results.

#### **Spectrum**

Space operators rely on spectrum during launch, to support in-space operations, and for transmitting scientific data and imagery from Earth observations. As commercial uses of spectrum continue to increase, it is important to ensure that Federal agencies can continue conducting their missions while using spectrum efficiently.

*Question 6.* How does NASA plan to continue working with Federal partners such as the NTIA and FCC to ensure sufficient spectrum is available to support science, commercial, and national security missions in a growing space ecosystem?

Answer. If confirmed, I would advocate for preserving the spectrum NASA requires to fulfill its on-orbit mission requirements. That said, I also believe we can take a proactive approach to reducing future demand.

Several commercial companies are already investing in advanced technologies like optical/laser forms of communications, which offer high-bandwidth alternatives to traditional systems.

#### **Space Debris**

Satellites and space stations can be damaged or destroyed by orbital debris, threatening human lives in addition to commercial and national security missions in space. Globally, other nations are pursuing demonstration missions to refine their technologies to remediate space debris.

While NASA has studied space debris issues extensively, the U.S. cannot fall behind in deploying its own technological capabilities.

*Question 7.* How can NASA help catalyze investments in developing and demonstrating technologies on-orbit, such as active debris removal, to support the safe and resilient use of space?

Answer. As I mentioned during my hearing, I'm very familiar with this issue—MMOD (Micrometeoroid and Orbital Debris) was the greatest threat to both of my space missions. While I'm not opposed to investing in active debris removal technologies, we need to be clear-eyed about the real challenge: the majority of the risk comes from millimeter-sized debris traveling at orbital velocities—objects too small to see or track but large enough to cause serious damage.

From a policy standpoint, the best thing we can do is stop making the problem worse. That means stronger international norms and accountability around responsible behavior in space—such as proper deorbiting practices, ending destructive

ASAT testing, and avoiding uncontrolled satellite breakups, which are often caused by less responsible foreign actors.

### **International Space Station**

The International Space Station (ISS) is scheduled to operate through 2030, providing a platform for human presence in space and an opportunity to perform scientific research in microgravity.

Currently, NASA is working with the commercial sector to support the development of future commercial LEO destinations, which will maintain the United States' presence in LEO and offer the opportunity for continued microgravity research on-orbit.

*Question 8.* How do you recommend NASA manage the ISS transition to ensure a safe deorbit plan while maintaining continued U.S. presence in low earth orbit?

Answer. To my understanding, NASA has already held a competition and selected a vendor to support the safe deorbiting of the ISS.

As such, my priority would be to maximize the remaining value of the ISS before it is decommissioned. We must prioritize the highest-potential science and research that can be conducted on the station—and do everything possible to “crack the code” on an on orbit economy. The success of commercial LEO destinations will depend on what we learn and accomplish now.

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#### RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER TO JARED ISAACMAN

NASA's Space Grant program has played a critical role in expanding STEM education and research opportunities in states like Delaware.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, will you commit to supporting the Space Grant program and ensuring its continued funding?

Answer. Programs like Space Grant help turn that inspiration into action by providing hands-on opportunities, academic support, and real pathways into the workforce. If confirmed, I would strongly support efforts that connect students to NASA's mission and help develop the talent needed to lead in space, science, and innovation.

*Question 2.* How do you view NASA's role in fostering STEM education and workforce development through programs like Space Grant?

Answer. Inspiring the next generation to pursue careers in STEM is a fundamental obligation of NASA. Programs like Space Grant help turn that inspiration into action by providing hands-on opportunities, academic support, and real pathways into the workforce. If confirmed, I would strongly support efforts that connect students to NASA's mission and help develop the talent needed to lead in space, science, and innovation.

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#### RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TED CRUZ TO OLIVIA TRUSTY

*Question 1.* Many in Congress, including myself, are committed to ensuring broadband connectivity across the country. However, the Universal Service Fund—an annual, multi-billion-dollar program—has operated with minimal oversight or accountability from Congress since its establishment in 1996. This has led to significant mission creep, particularly during the Biden administration with respect to its unlawful expansion of the E-Rate program.

As the “contribution base” has continued to shrink, there have been increasing calls to expand that base—more accurately, to broaden the consumer tax burden—to additional sectors and services. As I stated in my Blueprint for USF Reform, expanding the base alone would not reduce the amount consumers pay but merely change the method of collecting their payments. It would conceal, rather than fix, mission creep and unaccountable spending and undermine incentives for the FCC to lower costs or improve program performance.

Expanding the revenue base before pursuing spending reform also puts the cart before the horse. As you acknowledged at your hearing, there are over 100 different overlapping broadband programs at 15 different Federal agencies. As such, before expanding the tax base, it is necessary to examine what the programs themselves are paying for and to what extent they continue to be necessary. Spending reform must precede revenue reform.

Do you agree that reform to root out mission creep and waste, fraud, and abuse must be pursued before revenue reform?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 2.* As we discussed in my office, will you commit not to expand the contribution base beyond clear, current FCC authority without explicit Congressional action to authorize such expansion?

Answer. Yes.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. DAN SULLIVAN TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

**Alaska Connect Fund**

*Question 1.* In Alaska, communications access is critical for our communities, yet the terrain is unlike anywhere else. The weather is extreme. The building season is short. And, the permitting process is challenged by Federal land ownership. No other state has so many remote communities that are unconnected from any other infrastructure such as roads or utilities.

Providers face numerous challenges from an abbreviated construction season, to lack of commercial power, to the need to charter flights to conduct maintenance and repairs, and more.

In recognition of Alaska's challenges, the FCC has long recognized the importance of embracing flexible policies for Alaska.

Will you commit to making sure that FCC policies are flexible so that they reflect the unique circumstances facing providers and need to tailor their universal service obligations accordingly?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working at the FCC to promote policies, including policies that involve universal service obligations, that are flexible and reflect the unique connectivity needs in Alaska.

**Outdated Media Ownership Requirements**

*Question 1.* Chairman Carr has called this a “break glass moment for local broadcasting” and has said that he will be looking at the current local broadcast ownership rules and seeing which ones are no longer necessary because of all of the disruption in the media marketplace and the many different ways people consume media.

Updating, and in some cases eliminating these ownership rules, is important for a state like Alaska if we want to continue to receive important local news and information.

I am a strong supporter of local broadcast stations in my home state of Alaska. They provide important news, weather and emergency information to my constituents. These stations and stations across the country face economic challenges today due to market competition. These economic issues can lead to a reduction in their local news coverage, which we've seen in areas of our state.

Ms. Trusty, will you work to ensure that the FCC is pro-active in adopting policies that protect local stations' ability to continue to serve their key role in our communities, including by relaxing ownership rules that were enacted decades ago when the media space looked very different from today?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to promoting policies that protect local stations' ability to continue to serve their key role in communities across this country so that local broadcasters can better compete for viewers, programming, and advertising revenues in today's vibrant and dynamic media and video marketplace.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTION SUBMITTED BY HON. MARSHA BLACKBURN TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

*Question.* As you know, arrangements requiring musical performers to play at broadcast station events in exchange for airplay—particularly when coupled with threats of reduced airplay for non-compliance—violate the FCC's payola rules. These rules prohibit broadcasters from making programming decisions based on receiving anything of value without on-air disclosure of such consideration. Last month, after I sent a letter to the FCC, Chairman Carr issued an enforcement advisory addressing complaints that broadcasters are coercing musical artists to perform for free at station events or festivals by threatening to reduce their airplay if they refuse. If confirmed, will you commit to protecting American artists and continued vigilant enforcement of the FCC's payola rules?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TODD YOUNG TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

**Undersea Cables**

*Question 1.* As global demand for data capacity grows and geopolitical competition intensifies, undersea cable infrastructure has become increasingly vital to national security, economic competitiveness, and digital resilience.

What is the FCC's plan to support the private sector's increasing demands for greater deployment of subsea infrastructure?

Answer. The FCC is actively reviewing subsea cable rules for the first time since 2001 through a notice of proposed rulemaking initiated in November 2024. Information collected through this proceeding will help inform the FCC's next steps pertaining to streamlining the licensing process of subsea cable infrastructure; more efficient coordination with Federal agencies regarding subsea cable projects; and enhancing the national security of this critical infrastructure.

*Question 2.* What gaps do you see in FCC oversight of subsea infrastructure development and usage?

Answer. Today the FCC lacks sufficient transparency into the foreign ownership of undersea cable infrastructure development, as well as the security measures that subsea cable operators are implementing to protect this critical infrastructure from sabotage, disruption, or compromise.

*Question 3.* What can Congress do to better support the FCC's undersea cable efforts?

Answer. To support the FCC's undersea cable efforts, Congress could do the following: help promote more U.S.-led undersea cable projects to reduce potential security risks stemming from the foreign ownership of undersea cables; explore the diversification of undersea cable traffic patterns or routes to ensure there is no single point of failure if there is a cable outage due to sabotage or natural disasters; and strengthen disaster recovery and emergency response plans for undersea cables that have been compromised.

**NextGen Television Standard**

*Question 1.* Ms. Trusty, two years ago Senator Schatz and I wrote a letter to the FCC that was signed by 26 of our colleagues asking the Commission to expedite the continued rollout of the Next Generation Television Standard, or ATSC 3.0. The current standard, HD, has been around for almost 30 years and the new standard, NextGen, is a pro-consumer, innovative technology that not only provides viewers with much better picture and audio quality but also allows for targeted weather and emergency alerts. Just this week, the FCC invited public comment on a petition for rulemaking on this very issue, underscoring the growing momentum and continued interest in accelerating the modernization of this important technology.

If confirmed, can you commit to working with your colleagues, Congress and industry to ensure the transition to NextGen TV happens expeditiously and in a way that benefits television viewers?

Answer. Yes.

**FCC International Leadership/Standard Setting**

*Question 1.* The Federal Communications Commission (FCC), alongside other U.S. government agencies, is tasked with ensuring that American interests and values are effectively represented in these forums. Given the strategic importance of emerging technologies like 5G, satellite communications, and cybersecurity standards, U.S. engagement and leadership in global discussions is more important than ever.

How do you view the FCC's role in international standard-setting bodies, and what steps can the Commission take to strengthen U.S. leadership in those forums?

Answer. The FCC works in coordination with the State Department and NTIA to ensure that global standards align with U.S. regulatory frameworks and technical priorities to foster more efficient, cost effective and interoperable communications services around the world. To strengthen U.S. leadership in these global forums, the FCC can work with the State Department and NTIA to develop a unified U.S. strategy in advance of global meetings and conferences and support efforts to build coalitions among international allies and partners. This will help ensure the United States is better positioned to counter those seeking to undermine U.S. values and interests in global forums.

*Question 2.* What are the risks if the U.S. does not actively participate or lead in global standard-setting conversations?

Answer. If the U.S. does not actively participate or lead in global standards-setting forums, we risk losing our ability to lead in the development of next-generation communications technologies as well as our ability to lead in emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence and quantum computing. Maintaining an active U.S. presence in these global forums is foundational to our continued ability to promote human flourishing, economic competitiveness, and national security.

*Question 3.* How can the FCC better coordinate with other Federal agencies, like NTIA or the State Department, to present a unified U.S. position internationally?

Answer. Coordination among the FCC, State Department, and NTIA is essential to advancing the United States' economic and national security interests abroad. This coordination can be guided by interagency working groups, memoranda of understanding, or joint strategic plans that define roles, responsibilities, and procedures for coordination and could provide strategic roadmaps for advancing U.S. interests in international forums.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN CURTIS TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

*Question 1.* Local TV and radio stations are the backbone of our communities. They remain one of the last and best sources of local news in the areas they serve. But these local broadcasters are at risk of being left behind as FCC ownership rules—many of which predate the internet—limit their ability to compete with new forms of news consumption, like social media. Do you believe the FCC's media ownership rules are still appropriate in today's digital landscape? Why or why not?

Answer. The media marketplace has changed dramatically over the last two decades. This change has been driven largely by technology advancements and changes in consumers preferences. Today, U.S. consumers now have access to a variety of programming options across multiple platforms, which makes for a more personalized television viewing experience.

To ensure that local broadcasters and radio stations can compete and support their vital news gathering operations in the midst of this technological change, the FCC has a responsibility to modernize its regulatory framework to reflect the realities of this vibrant and dynamic media marketplace. Modern rules will better position local broadcasters and radio stations to compete for viewers, advertising revenues, and programming, which can ultimately foster greater investments into local news and investigative journalism in communities across the country.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. SHELLEY MOORE CAPITO TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

**R-DOF Transparency**

*Question 1.* Miss Trusty, thank you for your willingness to serve on the FCC. I enjoyed our conversation, and as I mentioned I care about the Rural Digital Opportunity Fund. I am looking forward to getting my Rural Broadband Protection Act signed into law, which will improve R-DOF and other programs on the front end, but I have questions about how the program is being carried out right now.

I would like to see a greater level of public reporting, such as state-by-state milestone reports for providers and their committed locations which would provide greater visibility into the progress of the program. This type of reporting would provide assurance that program participants are on track and expected to meet required milestones. Moreover, the FCC could detail its methods for performance testing and verify that service is being delivered as reported.

Can you commit to working to improve transparency in R-DOF?

Answer. Yes.

**Designated Market Areas**

*Question 2.* I am glad to see the Chairman's "Delete, delete, delete," effort underway. There are lots of burdensome regulations that the FCC should review. One that I have heard about from my state are Designated Market Area requirements for TV providers. Some parts of my state are forced to watch D.C. or Pittsburgh channels rather than West Virginia stations.

Do you agree that D-M-A requirements should be reviewed?

Answer. I agree that D-M-A requirements should be reviewed as part of efforts to expand access to local news in West Virginia and other states across the country.

### Local Broadcasters

*Question 3.* Staying on the broadcast topic, West Virginians trust and rely on their local stations more than any other media entity. Chairman Carr has stated that the local broadcast industry is at a “break glass moment.”

Do you agree with that, and if so, what do you think can be done to ensure the industry’s survival and allow it to better compete with the increasing threats from Big Tech in the marketplace?

Answer. I agree with Chairman Carr that the local broadcast industry is at a “break glass moment.” To ensure local broadcasters can survive, I believe that the regulatory framework governing the U.S. media and video marketplace needs to be modernized to help broadcasters better compete against Big Tech for viewers, programming, and advertising revenues. I believe this will help increase localism and diversity, and advance the public interest in the media and video marketplace.

### WV Visit

*Question 4.* West Virginia is unlike any other state in terms of deploying broadband and if confirmed, I would like to host you in the state to get to see some of our challenges first hand.

Can you commit to visiting West Virginia as a member of the FCC with me?

Answer. Absolutely. I would be honored to visit West Virginia.

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### RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. MARIA CANTWELL TO OLIVIA TRUSTY

**Local journalism.** As discussed at your confirmation hearing, I believe local journalism is more important than ever, as are the local broadcast stations that serve their communities with access to trusted, on-the-ground news and reporting. The public deserves relevant, authentic local news that tells them what is happening in their communities.

Our democracy relies on open debate, and no government official should use their authority to stifle reporting, interfere with editorial decisions, or undermine constitutional rights. To ensure that the public continues to have access to trusted, non-partisan information, we need to find ways to help broadcasters serve their communities free from government intimidation.

*Question 1.* How can the Federal Communications Commission (FCC, the Commission) promote local journalism?

Answer. The FCC can promote localism by modernizing the regulatory framework governing today’s media marketplace. Modernizing rules can help local broadcasters and radio stations compete against Big Tech for viewers, advertising revenues, and programming. Broadcasters can then be better positioned to invest more resources into local news and investigative journalism in communities across the country.

*Question 2.* Would modernizing FCC regulations like the treatment of virtual multichannel video programming distributors (vMVPDs) help level the playing field for local journalism?

Answer. It is important for the FCC to conduct a holistic review of FCC regulations governing the media marketplace and modernize those rules based on information in the record. Such information will likely inform how the FCC should move forward to best increase the availability of local news and enhance local broadcasters’ ability to compete against vMVPDs.

**Media and Free Speech Protections.** Free speech is paramount under our laws, but we have witnessed the Trump Administration’s efforts to target major outlets and smaller broadcast stations alike in repeated attacks against the truth. President Trump’s FCC Chair, for example, has launched unprecedented attacks on the freedom of the press, using sham investigations to pressure and harass regulated companies in an effort to intimidate and bully them into submission.

*Question 1.* Do you believe that the FCC should be weaponized against media organizations?

Answer. No.

*Question 2.* Will you reject efforts by the Commission to impede or restrict the freedom of the press?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 3.* Should the FCC exercise its regulatory powers, including but not limited to merger approvals, spectrum authorization, and licensing authority, to threaten companies simply if they do not agree with the current administration?

Answer. No.

**Affordable Connectivity Program.** The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helped 23 million households pay for essential broadband service before it ran out of funding last year. I have long been concerned that we don't have the right strategy to make broadband affordable for all Americans.

*Question 1.* Ms. Trusty, you said that affordable broadband was one of your top priorities. How will you accomplish this at the FCC?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to expand access to affordable broadband by promoting more competition and choice in the broadband marketplace. I believe that more choice in the marketplace will lead to lower prices for consumers. I will also work to remove regulatory barriers that increase the cost of deploying broadband for providers and ultimately increase the cost of purchasing broadband services for consumers.

*Question 2.* Do you believe that the ACP should be renewed?

Answer. I support the Committee's continued efforts to expand access to affordable broadband. I would ultimately defer to Congress as to whether the ACP should be renewed.

**Universal Service Fund.** Promoting universal access to telecommunications services is one of the FCC's core principles. In Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, Congress directed the FCC to advance universal access to telecommunications services that are essential to education, public health, or public safety, and that are consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Yet the Universal Service Fund (USF) is at risk due to legal challenges to the FCC's ability to administer the Fund, and to Congress's right to direct the FCC to advance the goals of universal service. Moreover, a bipartisan group of members of this Committee has been working to ensure that the FCC can continue in its mission to offer connectivity to modern communications for all.

*Question 1.* Yes or no: Will you support the Commission's efforts to advance universal service, consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, for services essential to education, public health, and public safety?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 2.* While I am aware that the issue is currently being litigated, do you believe that Section 254 and the USF are legal?

Answer. It would be imprudent for me to prejudge the legality of an issue that is currently being challenged before the Supreme Court.

**Free and Open Internet.** Connectivity in the 21st Century depends upon access to a free and open Internet that protects consumers, competition, and innovation, and promotes public safety and national security. As the expert agency on communications, the FCC's policies must advance access to broadband without preference for any content or traffic online, and without favoring any particular service, technology, or provider.

*Question 1.* Should Internet service providers be allowed to block websites or content?

Answer. I believe that Congress is best positioned to determine the rules governing Internet service providers' network management practices to ensure the continuation of a highly competitive, robust, and innovative Internet economy that is available to all Americans. If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of any legislative effort related to this issue.

*Question 2.* Should Internet service providers be allowed to prioritize a website or a service by speeding it up or slowing down other content in exchange for payment?

Answer. I believe that Congress is best positioned to determine the rules governing Internet service providers' network management practices to ensure the continuation of a highly competitive, robust, and innovative Internet economy that is available to all Americans. If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of any legislative effort related to this issue.

*Question 3.* Since the first Trump Administration repealed net neutrality rules in 2017, the FCC has received approximately 40,000 consumer complaints about Internet service providers concerning "speed, throttling, open internet, and data cap" concerns. Do you believe the FCC has a role to play in addressing these complaints?

Answer. The FCC has a responsibility to investigate consumer complaints and act as necessary in accordance with facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the FCC's authorities under the law.

**Tribal Coordination and Outreach.** Washington State is home to 29 federally recognized Tribes, each with their own Tribal government working to preserve culture, protect resources, and improve the lives of those in their communities. Access-

ing modern communications like broadband is an essential tool for advancing these goals and requires coordination at the local, state, and Federal level.

*Question 1.* Yes or no: Do you commit to working with Tribal governments on broadband connectivity and deployment issues relevant to their communities?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 2.* If confirmed, will you advance policies at the FCC that recognize the sovereignty of Tribal governments and encourage coordination with Tribal representatives?

Answer. Yes

*Question 3.* Recently, the Commission has invested in targeted outreach efforts to increase participation of Tribal libraries in the E-Rate program. If confirmed, what steps will you commit to continuing to prioritize support for Tribal libraries? What steps will you take to ensure such outreach continues, and what recommendations will you make to improve the Commission's efforts?

Answer. The Universal Service Fund and the programs it supports are facing an uncertain future, in part, because of a shrinking contribution base. If confirmed, I commit to working with Congress and interested stakeholders to identify a "specific, predictable, and sufficient" form of support that empowers the FCC to continue addressing connectivity needs across the country, including the connectivity needs of Tribal libraries. I also commit to making recommendations and working within the Commission to streamline application processes, provide technical assistance, and promote the availability of digital literacy and workforce development programs in Tribal communities to improve the Commission's efforts to expand access to modern communications services in these areas.

**988.** In recent years, the FCC has played an integral role in expanding access to 988—The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, first by designating a three-digit number to make it easier for those in crisis to reach help, then by supporting texting to 988, and most recently by implementing geo-routing to route callers to their closest 988 call center. Yet the Trump Administration's cuts to the Federal workforce, including massive cuts at the Department of Health and Human Services, threaten to cripple support and staffing resources for 988, cutting off access to critical mental health services, including for the LGBTQIA+ community, veterans, and Spanish speakers.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, will you support policies at the FCC that will continue to promote and expand access to 988 for all who need it, regardless of background, sex, gender, race, or creed?

Answer. Yes.

**Robocalls and Robotexts.** In your testimony, you pledged to protect consumers from illegal robocalls. Washingtonians receive tens of millions of robocalls each month, and one study in 2024 suggests that Washington consumers are among those who receive the most spam calls in the country. Unwanted text messages are also a growing nuisance.

*Question 1.* How will you work to reduce the number of unwanted, and often fraudulent, robocalls for all Americans, including consumers in Washington State?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to help strengthen the FCC's authorities to combat unwanted and fraudulent robocalls. I will also work with international partners as well as state attorneys general to protect consumers from these abusive calls. If confirmed, I also commit to supporting efforts to develop more proactive call blocking measures to prevent robocalls from reaching consumers in the first place.

*Question 2.* Do you support regulations that work to reduce the number of spam text messages?

Answer. I support the idea that new regulations may be necessary to reduce the number of spam text messages.

**Cyber Security.** The United States has been under increasing cyber-attacks by hostile foreign powers, notably China and Russia. Last year, Chinese hackers, as part of the Salt Typhoon attack, hacked into U.S. telecom networks and monitored phone calls and text messages, targeting prominent figures, including Vice President J.D. Vance.

*Question 1.* What is the FCC's role in mitigating attacks like Salt Typhoon, and what should the FCC do to help prevent future attacks?

Answer. To mitigate future attacks like Salt Typhoon, the FCC has a responsibility to work with Federal partners to ensure telecommunications providers have the tools and resources they need to defend their networks against malicious cyber threat actors. To prevent future attacks, I believe the FCC should participate in ongoing whole-of-government conversations about how to improve the efficacy of the

United States' deterrence efforts against nation state actors. The FCC should also work with Federal partners and the private sector to diversify and strengthen the U.S. domestic supply chain for telecommunications network components to increase the security of the Nation's communications infrastructure.

**Public Media.** Public media provides a vital community service by offering local content, breaking news, and weather. But public television and radio stations are under attack by the Trump FCC, where the current Chair has initiated sham investigations to intimidate public media organizations that the President has deemed unfavorable.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, will you support policies that promote and preserve public media in communities across the country?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that public media can operate in accordance with the law.

**FCC Independence.** Congress established the FCC to oversee some of the most important institutions in our society, including the media industry. Because of this influence, the FCC is an independent agency and not subject to direct presidential control.

President Trump is now wrongfully trying to bring independent agencies under his control, recently firing the two Democratic commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission, another independent agency.

*Question 1.* Do you believe it is important for the FCC to be independent of the President?

Answer. Whether agencies like the FCC are legally independent from the Executive Branch is subject to pending litigation. Whatever the FCC's legal status is determined to be, my commitment to this Committee and to Congress is that I will follow the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding before the Commission, if confirmed.

*Question 2.* Do you believe that the FCC benefits by having both Democratic and Republican Commissioners to debate and decide on policy and regulatory issues?

Answer. If confirmed, I will strive to reach consensus with everyone and anyone at the FCC in carrying out the agency's mission.

*Question 3.* If confirmed, do you commit to carrying out your duties independently?

Answer. If confirmed, I will be guided by the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding before the Commission.

*Question 4.* Would you support the President's firing of an FCC Commissioner due solely to their political affiliation?

Answer. I would defer to the President, the Senate, and the Courts regarding the oversight and management of nominees.

**Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion.** President Trump's FCC Chair has initiated a startling display of agency overreach by sending letters to three regulated companies—Comcast-NBCUniversal, Verizon, and Disney/ABC—informing them of investigations into their DEI practices. These letters, which cite concerns about each company's compliance with the FCC's equal employment opportunities rules, target policies that the Chair labels as "invidious forms of DEI discrimination" when they are in fact focused on encouraging and cultivating business opportunities for a diverse and qualified workforce.

*Question 1.* Do you agree that a private company should be able to make a business decision to prioritize diversity free from FCC interference and second-guessing?

Answer. In accordance with Section 151 of the Communications Act, the FCC has a responsibility to make sure communications services are available to all Americans without discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics, including "race, color, national origin, or sex". The FCC also has a responsibility to enforce civil rights protections contained in Sections 334 and 554 of the Communications Act regarding equal employment opportunity. If confirmed, my commitment is to uphold and enforce the law.

**Bipartisan cooperation.** Nominees to fill open seats on independent commissions are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. This Committee has long worked with the White House to ensure that there is bipartisan cooperation when there are vacant seats to be filled by both parties.

*Question 1.* Yes or no: Will you commit to working with this Committee and responding to any inquiries, regardless of party?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 2.* Yes or no: Do you support having a fully staffed FCC with five Commissioners, including two Democrats?

Answer. If confirmed, my job will be to work with everyone and anyone at the FCC to carry out the mission of the agency. I would defer to the President, the Senate, and the Courts on the oversight and management of FCC nominees.

*Question 3.* Yes or no: Do you think the American people benefit from having a fully staffed FCC?

Answer. I believe that the American people benefit when the FCC operates efficiently in carrying out its mission; is responsive to the connectivity needs of unserved or underserved communities across the country; and is a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

**Tariffs.** President Trump's tariffs are raising the cost of living, crashing the stock market, and causing uncertainty for our business community.

Ms. Trusty, you spoke about the importance of affordable broadband. A recent study by Price Waterhouse Coopers found that these tariffs could raise costs in the telecom and technology sectors by \$126 billion.

*Question 1.* Yes or no: Do you think that these tariffs will make broadband less affordable?

Answer. I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

*Question 2.* Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will make broadband more expensive to deploy?

Answer. I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

*Question 3.* Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating the USF's High Cost program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer. I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the USF High Cost program, the FCC should focus on removing Federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce the cost of broadband deployment. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects in the USF High Cost program.

*Question 4.* Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating the USF's E-Rate program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer. I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the E-Rate program, the FCC should focus on removing Federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce the cost of broadband deployment to schools and libraries. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects to schools and libraries.

*Question 5.* Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating the USF's Lifeline program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer. I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the Lifeline program, the FCC should focus on removing Federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce

the cost of broadband deployment, which will ultimately reduce costs for end-users. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects, and reduce the cost of broadband services for low-income consumers.

*Question 6.* Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer. I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the USF Rural Health Care program, the FCC should focus on removing Federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce the cost of broadband deployment projects that support access to health care in rural communities. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects and promote access to health care in unserved or underserved communities.

*Question 7.* Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the FCC's Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs? Will Congress need to appropriate additional funds to remove untrusted Chinese telecom equipment from U.S. networks?

Answer. I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the FCC's Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program, the FCC should promote the adoption of Open RAN technologies to diversify and strengthen the Nation's domestic supply chain. This can help promote more competition and reduce the cost of telecommunications equipment. To my knowledge, there is not a current need for Congress to appropriate additional funds to remove untrusted Chinese telecom equipment from U.S. networks.

**Spectrum.** During the first Trump Administration, there were failures to coordinate on Federal and commercial spectrum policy.

I believe we must create a coordinated approach to domestic spectrum policy, where agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration work together with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and FCC—cooperatively—on spectrum.

*Question 1.* How should the FCC coordinate spectrum auctions with Federal agencies, if authority is reinstated, to ensure that critical Federal systems and capabilities are not compromised or diminished?

Answer. I believe that the FCC should coordinate with NTIA and consult with impacted Federal agencies, through established mechanisms such as the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee to ensure that spectrum management decisions, including auctions, are informed by economic and national security analyses.

*Question 2.* Yes or no: Do you agree that we cannot put our national security and public safety at risk to free up spectrum for sale to the commercial sector?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 3.* Yes or no: Do you agree that proper coordination of spectrum use is vital?

Answer. I agree that coordination between the FCC and NTIA on spectrum, as well as consultation with impacted Federal agencies, is vital to putting spectrum to highest and best use and advancing the Nation's economic and national security interests.

*Question 4.* Do you think it's wise to auction Federal spectrum before technical studies are finished to determine the viability of relocating Federal systems?

Answer. I believe that technical studies can help inform the spectrum management process and ensure that both NTIA and the FCC are putting spectrum to its highest and best use, in support of the Nation's economic and national security interests.

*Question 5.* If confirmed, will you commit to collaborating on a spectrum policy that engages stakeholders from NTIA and the Department of Commerce, DoD, DOT, and industry, to work towards resolution to restore U.S. leadership in innovation?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 6.* Do you believe that spectrum reallocation studies in the Lower 3 GHz and 7/8 GHz need to be completed before the FCC begins a proceeding to auction those bands?

Answer. Given that this is an active topic of debate before Congress, I would defer to Congress on how the technical studies of these bands should inform spectrum management processes at NTIA and the FCC.

*Question 7.* Do you agree that if the DoD is required to surrender use of a band of frequencies for which the DoD is the primary user that the NTIA must make available, if necessary, an alternative band of frequencies as replacement for the band being surrendered as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA?

Answer. I agree that Section 1062 (b)(1)(B) of the FY 2000 NDAA states the following: "If, in order to make available for other use a band of frequencies of which it is a primary user, the Department of Defense is required to surrender use of such band of frequencies, the Department shall not surrender use of such band of frequencies until: the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, in consultation with the Federal Communications Commission, identifies and makes available to the Department for its primary use, if necessary, an alternative band or bands of frequencies as a replacement for the band to be so surrendered."

*Question 8.* Do you agree that the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff must jointly certify to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives that the alternative band that is made available to the DoD provides comparable technical characteristics to restore essential military capability that will be lost as a result of the band of frequencies to be so surrendered as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 9.* Did this process occur in advance of FCC Auction 110 of the 3.45 to 3.55 GHz Band where the DoD was the primary user?

Answer. I was not at the FCC during this time and therefore cannot speak to what processes did or did not occur in advance of Auction 110.

*Question 10.* Will you commit to me that you will follow the law and not vote to auction a band of frequencies where the DoD is the primary user unless and until the process as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA is completed?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to following the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

**Section 230.** Congress passed Section 230 in 1996 to provide a liability shield for the then-nascent Internet industry. While there have been discussions in Congress about updating the law, the FCC has rejected the idea that it has the authority to enforce Section 230 since it was passed nearly 30 years ago. But the current FCC Chairman is now talking about attempting to interpret the law to say that the FCC can police what is said online, and that they will do so to favor conservative voices online.

*Question 1.* Do you agree that it is Congress's role, not the FCC's, to update Section 230?

Answer. I agree that Congress has the authority to amend or update Section 230 in the Communications Act.

*Question 2.* Do you believe that online platforms have First Amendment rights?

Answer. Yes.

**Mapping.** It is critical that we have the best data to make important decisions about where to expend taxpayer funds for broadband deployment. While the FCC has improved its broadband maps over the last few years, more remains to be done. I am particularly concerned that the current maps wholly rely on providers' assertions about the speed and availability of their service.

*Question 1.* Will you commit to working with me and this committee to continue to improve the FCC's broadband maps?

Answer. Yes.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. AMY KLOBUCHAR TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

**Next Generation 9-1-1**

Our 9-1-1 systems are outdated and in need of significant upgrades. As co-chair of the Senate Next Generation 9-1-1 Caucus, I've been working to secure funding to modernize America's 9-1-1 call centers through spectrum auction proceeds.

*Question 1.* Do you agree we need to modernize our 9-1-1 infrastructure?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 2.* If confirmed, will you commit to working with Congress to ensure America's 911 Centers have the cybersecurity, resiliency, and interoperability that Next Generation 911 technology provides?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 3.* What concrete measures should the FCC prioritize to promote Next Generation 9-1-1 deployment?

Answer. To promote Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) deployment, the FCC can do the following: proactively enforce Commission rules against fee diversion to ensure resources are available for NG911 deployment; support the development of interoperability standards between states and localities to ensure nationwide NG911 interoperability; and promote public awareness and education about the benefits of NG911 technology to incentivize greater investments into the technology.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BRIAN SCHATZ TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

**DOGE Access to FCC**

Reports have found that individuals identified as employees of DOGE have been listed in a public directory for FCC staff. Within the scope of FCC's jurisdiction includes policy and regulatory matters, including broadband and satellite communications, of relevance to Elon Musk's business interests.

*Question 1.* Will you commit to ensuring that DOGE employees are conducting activities that do not pose any conflicts of interest with Elon Musk's business interests?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to acting without fear or favor toward any individual or entity petitioning the FCC for a certain outcome regarding any proceeding before the Commission regardless of who is employed at the FCC or any other Federal agencies.

*Question 2.* Will you commit to ensuring DOGE employees abide by appropriate cybersecurity standards and data access restrictions if provided access to internal FCC systems and information?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to abiding by cybersecurity standards and data access restrictions to internal FCC systems and information, and ensuring that all individuals under my authority do the same.

**White House Oversight of Independent Agencies**

On February 18, 2025, President Trump announced an Executive Order (EO) entitled, "Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies." The EO institutes an unprecedented requirement for direct presidential oversight over actions and strategic plans by independent agencies, including the FCC.

*Question 3.* As Commissioner, will you commit to upholding the independence of decision making at the FCC?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to making decisions based on facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law.

**Federal Trust Responsibility to Tribal and Native Communities**

It is critical that the United States continues to uphold its trust responsibility to Tribal and Native communities.

*Question 4.* Please provide a description of your understanding of the Federal trust responsibility to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, and how that necessitates continuance of programs that directly and indirectly serve these communities.

Answer. The Federal Indian trust responsibility is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the United States to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources, as well as a duty to carry out the mandates of Federal law with respect to American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native tribes and villages.

*Question 5.* At FCC, will you commit to upholding this trust responsibility?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 6.* Yes or no, will you commit to holding Tribal consultation before the FCC makes changes to programs that serve Tribes, or engages in Reductions in Force and agency reorganization efforts that may affect Tribes and service on Tribal lands?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to consulting with a wide range of stakeholders, including Tribes, on proceedings that come before the FCC.

*Question 7.* Yes or no, will you continue to abide by the NTIA–FCC–Department of the Interior Tribal Spectrum Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to abiding by any and all MOUs in force and effect that involve the FCC’s coordination with other Federal agencies.

*Question 8.* Given the growing competition for mid-band spectrum between military and commercial users, how should policymakers view Tribal governments in this dynamic?

Answer. Given that spectrum is a finite resource, policymakers should always strive to put spectrum to its highest and best use and maximize the economic and societal benefits of spectrum use to ensure the best return for all people across the country, including those living on Tribal lands.

*Question 9.* Do Tribes represent a unique category of spectrum stakeholders, and what role does direct access to spectrum for them play in expanding competition in underserved areas?

Answer. In Auction 108 (2.5 GHz), the FCC established a Tribal priority window in recognition of the unique connectivity needs and challenges facing Tribal lands. This particular auction can help inform how future opportunities for direct access to spectrum in Tribal communities can expand competition in unserved or underserved areas.

*Question 10.* Yes or no, will you commit to maintaining the Office of Native Affairs and Policy at the FCC?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working with the hardworking and dedicated staff at the FCC to address the Nation’s connectivity needs across the country, including on Tribal lands.

*Question 11.* Yes or no, will you commit to issuing internal guidance clarifying that Executive Order 14151 does not apply to Tribes and Tribal programs, as well as services and staff associated with the Commission’s government-to-government relationship with Tribes?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to upholding and enforcing the law, which requires the FCC to make communications services available across the country without discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics. I also commit to promoting policies that acknowledge and support the unique connectivity needs of individuals, families, and communities living in rural and remote areas, including Tribal lands.

### **Next Generation Television/ATSC 3.0**

In 2023, I co-authored a bipartisan letter, signed by 28 senators, to the FCC urging the Commission to take an active role in a successful ATSC 3.0 transition. This transition will play an important role in supporting the competitiveness of local TV broadcasters and the services they provide to their communities, including expanded local news, advanced emergency alerting, and improved viewer experience.

*Question 12.* Will you commit to ensuring that the FCC provides a timely regulatory framework and next steps for this initiative?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working to ensure that the FCC provides a timely regulatory framework and next steps for this initiative.

*Question 13.* Will you commit to ensuring the FCC takes an active role in addressing potential challenges posed by the transition from ATSC 1.0 to 3.0, including working with Congress, public broadcasters, industry, and consumer groups to ensure that consumers with legacy TVs are not harmed by any changes?

Answer. Yes.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. EDWARD MARKEY TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

### **Disability Accessibility**

People with disabilities rely on accessible services, including Telecommunications Relay Services, audio description, and accessible software to communicate and ac-

cess video programming. The FCC has been tasked by Congress in numerous laws to ensure telecommunications and video programming providers make their services and products accessible to people with disabilities.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, will you commit to carrying out these laws and to ensuring the FCC fully enforces the laws within its jurisdiction, including the Communications and Video Accessibility Act?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 2.* If confirmed, will you ensure that the FCC itself maintains accessible websites, facilities, and services so that the public and employees with disabilities can fully benefit from, participate in, and contribute to the FCC's work?

Answer. Yes.

*Question 3.* If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that people with disabilities continue to be able to access emerging communications services as technology evolves?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working to ensure that people with disabilities can continue to access emerging communications services consistent with the law and the scope of the FCC's authority.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. GARY PETERS TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

### **FCC Independence**

*Question 1.* The FCC website states that the FCC is “an independent U.S. government agency overseen by Congress.” We have unfortunately seen this President undermine independent agencies by illegally firing Democratic commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission.

a. Do you agree that the FCC is an independent agency?

Answer. Whether Federal agencies like the FCC are legally independent from the Executive Branch is subject to pending litigation. Whatever the FCC's legal status is determined to be, if confirmed, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

b. What protections and practices make the FCC an independent agency?

Answer. Whether Federal agencies like the FCC are legally independent from the Executive Branch is subject to pending litigation. Whatever the FCC's legal status is determined to be, if confirmed, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

c. If confirmed, will you commit to carrying out the FCC's mission free from undue influence or control from the President?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

### **Weaponization of the FCC**

*Question 2.* President Trump has suggested on multiple occasions that licenses for major news organizations like CBS, ABC or NBC should be revoked when they conducted reporting he disagreed with. However, under the first amendment, major news organizations can and should publish news that is inconvenient or critical of politicians—including the President—without fear of retaliation.

This isn't a partisan concern either—in 2017 former FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said: “Under the law, the FCC does not have the authority to revoke a license of a broadcast station based on the content of a particular newscast.”

If confirmed, will you oppose any attempt to weaponize the FCC to intimidate news media or limit freedom of the press?

Answer. Yes.

### **Public Broadcasting and Emergencies**

*Question 3.* Public television and radio stations play an integral role in our Nation's emergency alert system. In 2022, FEMA selected CPB to administer the Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) grant program, providing public media stations funding to replace and upgrade infrastructure to expand alert, warning, and interoperable communications, creating a more resilient and secure public alerting system during emergencies.

Delta College Public Media, which serves a largely rural and underserved audience in the crook of Michigan's thumb, received a grant allocation of up to \$976,708 under this program. Modernizing emergency communications to be able to reach un-

underserved areas is becoming increasingly crucial—particularly with recent ice storms in northern Michigan causing widespread power outages and a complete wipeout of phone and cellular services.

If confirmed, do you commit to working to preserve this important funding stream to CPB and supporting public media stations' efforts to reach underserved communities during emergencies?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that public media can operate in accordance with the law. I would defer to Congress on preserving funding streams to CPB as the FCC has no authority over these funds.

#### **Public Broadcasting Community Good**

*Question 4.* Public broadcasting plays an essential role in local news and programming, education, public safety, and more. For 2025, Congress appropriated \$535 million to the CPB, which is less than 1/100th of a percent out of the total budget and costs, on average, only \$1.50 per American per year.

In my state, the Michigan Learning Channel is a publicly funded statewide initiative to improve math and literacy, and I always like watching Michigan Out-of-Doors, a program which promotes the outdoor recreation and beauty our state has to offer.

Do you agree that public media plays an essential role in communities that traditional profit-based broadcasters are not able to fill?

Answer. Public television was formally created in the late 1960s through the Public Broadcasting Act to serve and promote cultural, educational, and civic engagement. The FCC has a responsibility to ensure that public media (*i.e.*, non-commercial stations) operate legally and in the public interest. I would defer to Congress as to whether public media plays an essential role in today's video and media marketplace.

#### **Support for USF**

*Question 5.* You discussed in your testimony and during the hearing that one of your primary goals on the FCC will be closing the digital divide.

One of the FCC's most powerful tools to that end has been the Universal Service Fund, which supports rural broadband, Internet access at schools and libraries, affordability, and more. As a member of the bipartisan USF Working Group, I know reforms are needed to make this fund sustainable for decades to come. Unfortunately, the USF has been under attack.

Do you agree that the Universal Service Fund is a vital resource that must be maintained in some form if we are to close the digital divide?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to advancing and preserving universal service, as required by Section 254 of the Communications Act, to meet the connectivity needs of all Americans. I also commit to working with Congress to identify a "specific, predictable, and sufficient" form of support for the FCC to continue expanding access to modern communications services to communities across the country.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY BALDWIN TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

#### **1. Robocalls and Scams**

Robocalls and ever increasingly sophisticated scams pose a serious threat to millions of Americans, especially to our seniors. These scams can lead to significant financial losses including people losing their life's retirement savings, breach of sensitive personal information, and loss of peace of mind as people are bombarded by these spam communications.

As Commissioner of the FCC, how would you work to protect Americans from these increasingly dangerous scam calls and text messages?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work with Congress to help strengthen the FCC's authorities to combat unwanted and fraudulent robocalls. I will also work with international partners as well as state attorneys general to protect consumers from these abusive calls. I will also support efforts to develop more proactive call blocking measures to prevent robocalls from reaching consumers in the first place.

#### **2. Local Programming**

Unfortunately, Wisconsin is home to a number of "orphan counties" who find themselves put into out of state television media markets and are unable to access local programming such as local news and local sports.

If confirmed, will you work with my office to address the issue of "orphan counties" and help ensure Americans are able to obtain access to local, relevant television programming?

Answer. Yes.

### 3. Rural Connectivity

In your testimony you emphasized the importance of quality Internet connection for people to fully participate in our increasingly digital economy.

As Commissioner, how would you work to increase broadband connectivity in rural areas? Additionally, how would you ensure that connectivity is financially accessible?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work to increase broadband connectivity in rural areas by doing the following: coordinating with other Federal agencies with broadband programs to eliminate program fragmentation and duplication across the Federal government and ensure Federal resources are better targeted to unserved areas; remove regulatory barriers that impede or increase the cost of deploying broadband to rural areas; embrace new technologies such as satellite broadband or fixed wireless services that can provide a more cost effective solution in expanding connectivity to rural, unserved areas; and consider adjustments to USF programs to better target resources to unserved communities.

To ensure connectivity is financially accessibility or affordable, if confirmed, I will work to promote more competition and choice in the broadband marketplace, which can improve the quality of service and reduce costs for consumers. I will also work to remove regulatory barriers that increase the cost of deploying broadband for providers and increase the cost of purchasing broadband services for consumers.

### 4. 988-lifeline

The 988-lifeline program is a vital resource for Americans, offering support in critical times of need. LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, experience increasing rates of suicide, with these individuals being 8.4 times more likely to have reported an attempt to end their lives.

To continue to support all Americans in times of need, will you commit to ensuring all existing FCC support services and resources for LGBTQ+ people will remain accessible?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that FCC support services and resources are accessible to all Americans, including LGBTQ+ individuals.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. TAMMY DUCKWORTH TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

### Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act

*Question 1.* In 2023, my bipartisan Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act was signed into law to prevent prison telecom providers from gouging consumers when they call their incarcerated loved ones. Last year, the FCC voted unanimously to implement the law, cutting the cost of a fifteen-minute phone call to or from large jails from as much as eleven dollars to just ninety cents. The FCC also took the first step and slashing the cost of video calls by implementing an interim rate cap on video calls as they collect more data.

Had you been a member of the FCC last year, would you have joined all the other Commissioners in voting to adopt the rule implementing my Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act?

Answer. In light of pending litigation regarding the FCC's implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act, I believe it would be imprudent for me to comment or speculate on what I would have done, if I had been a member of the Commission. That said, if confirmed, I commit to protecting consumers from exploitation in the telecommunications marketplace.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JACKY ROSEN TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

### Network Security

Our adversaries continue to grow more sophisticated and aggressive in their cyberattacks, including those in the telecom sector. A big part of network security is not just ensuring we have secure hardware—though I am thankful we secured additional funding last fall for “Rip and Replace” to help providers use trusted equipment—but increasingly, our networks must have sophisticated and dynamic defenses against network intrusions, like Salt Typhoon.

*Question 1.* What do you see the FCC's role in promoting secure networks and cybersecurity?

Answer. To mitigate future attacks like Salt Typhoon, the FCC has a responsibility to work with Federal partners to ensure telecommunications providers have the tools and resources they need to defend their networks against malicious cyber threat actors. To prevent future attacks, I believe the FCC should participate in ongoing whole-of-government conversations about how to improve the efficacy of the United States' deterrence efforts against nation state actors. The FCC should also work with Federal partners and the private sector to diversify and strengthen the U.S. domestic supply chain for telecommunications network components to increase the security of the Nation's communications infrastructure.

*Question 2.* If confirmed, what steps would you take to move the telecom sector forward in adopting better cybersecurity practices and standards?

Answer. If confirmed, I will promote the adoption of Open RAN technologies that can help strengthen and diversify the Nation's telecommunications supply chain and increase network security. I will also promote the use of the FCC's authorities in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act to ban high-risk equipment and vendors from the Nation's communications infrastructure. If confirmed, I would also focus on increasing the security of undersea cable infrastructure to better protect the Nation's economic and national security interests.

### **USF Cybersecurity**

Hackers are increasingly targeting schools and health care organizations in ransomware attacks. In fact, Clark County School District was the target of a ransomware attack in 2023 that exposed the sensitive information of over 200,000 Nevada students. The previous FCC chair established a cybersecurity pilot program within the USF's E-Rate program, allowing schools and libraries to use E-rate funding for cybersecurity expenses.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, would you support actions like this pilot program and work with Congress to help protect schools from ransomware attacks?

Answer. Schools are a target-rich environment for cyber-attacks because they have legacy infrastructure that is vulnerable to exploitation and they store a lot of sensitive personal information. If confirmed, I commit to working with schools and libraries to strengthen their cybersecurity defenses from ransomware attackers and other cyber threat actors.

### **Broadband Affordability**

Ensuring that communities can afford broadband is just as critical as building the networks themselves, and not every option is affordable. Satellite Internet providers like Elon Musk's Starlink can be much more expensive for consumers than fiber or fixed wireless service. With monthly fees from \$120 to \$500, these prices are simply out of reach for many low-income and rural households.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, would you support expanding the FCC's Lifeline program to provide a more robust, ACP-like subsidy—so that affordability doesn't remain a barrier for newly connected communities, and the investments in broadband deployment translate into meaningful adoption?

Answer. If confirmed, I will work to expand access to affordable broadband by promoting more competition and choice in the broadband marketplace. I believe that more choice in the marketplace will lead to lower prices for consumers. I will also work to remove regulatory barriers that increase the cost of deploying broadband for providers and ultimately increase the cost of purchasing broadband services for consumers.

I believe the FCC needs to work urgently with Congress to identify a "specific, predictable, and sufficient" form of support to continue meeting connectivity needs across the country, before making significant reforms to the USF programs.

### **Tribal Priority Windows**

The FCC's 2.5 gigahertz Tribal Priority Window, enacted by former Chairman Pai in 2020, helped hundreds of Tribes claim spectrum and deploy broadband where commercial providers failed to reach. The upcoming AWS-3 auction presents a similar opportunity—and it could be done without significantly delaying the auction or impacting the value of the licenses.

*Question 1.* If confirmed, would you support creating future Tribal Priority Windows or other public interest set-asides to ensure Tribal Nations and unserved communities can access spectrum and grow their communities directly, rather than waiting on commercial deployment?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to putting spectrum to its highest and best use and maximizing the economic and societal benefits of spectrum use to ensure the best return for all people across the country, including those living on Tribal lands. In Auction 108 (2.5 GHz), the FCC established a Tribal priority window in recogni-

tion of the unique connectivity needs and challenges facing Tribal lands. This particular auction can help inform how future opportunities for direct access to spectrum in Tribal communities can expand competition and access to modern communications services in unserved or underserved areas.

#### **CBRS & DOD**

Since the FCC finalized the rules for the CBRS band, we have seen it being used in a variety of innovative ways. In Las Vegas, Cox worked with the City to launch a private network on CBRS that powers smart cities and Internet of Things (IoT) devices. As you know, CBRS is shared with the military, and has been an important model in how the FCC and the military can work together to enhance commercial spectrum use while protecting defense equities.

*Question 1.* Will you commit to continuing to work with DoD and the NTIA to ensure any changes to CBRS's rules are not made unilaterally and do not harm our national defense?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working with NTIA, DOD, and any other impacted Federal agency in spectrum proceedings that come before the FCC.

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#### RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. BEN RAY LUJÁN TO OLIVIA TRUSTY

*Question 1.* I have been on the record in support of FCC policies that help many points of view reach the public. This does not just mean viewpoints I agree with. Whereas Chair Carr has put pressure on broadcasters that take positions President Trump dislikes, I have been supportive of rules that would help independent video programmers gain an opportunity to compete by bringing their content to the public no matter their viewpoint. I am similarly concerned that the broadcast industry is now asking the FCC to eliminate ownership limits altogether. *Do you think there is any limit to how many households a single company can reach?* As you know, although Congress set a national ownership cap at 39 percent of U.S. households, the way the FCC measures the cap means some companies already reach 70 percent of the U.S. audience. *Is 70 percent of the country too large? How few independently owned TV stations in a single community or local market are too few?*

Answer. There is currently an active proceeding before the FCC on media ownership limits. To remain impartial, I believe it would be imprudent for me to comment on issues related to the active proceeding in my capacity as a nominee. As a general matter, for any media related proceeding before the FCC, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law, if confirmed.

*Question 2.* As you know, Congress unfortunately failed to extend the American Connectivity Program (ACP), which expanded affordable broadband access to over 23 million households. That makes the FCC's Lifeline program, a part of the universal service fund (USF), even more important today for helping eligible, low-income Americans access wireless and Internet service. *Could you share more about ways you believe Lifeline could be improved? Please be specific.*

Answer. I support the Committee's continued efforts to expand access to affordable broadband. To improve Lifeline, I believe the FCC should work with Congress to do the following: develop performance metrics to better track the program's effectiveness in expanding access to affordable communications services; conduct enhanced oversight over the eligibility of Lifeline recipients to ensure the resources are going to those in need; and closely align the Lifeline program with digital literacy efforts.

*Question 3.* Yes or no, do you think that the Universal Service Fund should have a stable, dedicated funding source—rather than rely on annual appropriations?

Answer. I believe that carrying out the FCC's universal service mission requires the funding source to be "specific, predictable, and sufficient" in accordance with Section 254 of the Communications Act.

*Question 4.* How do you think the FCC should modernize the Universal Service Fund to ensure its long-term sustainability?

Answer. I believe the FCC should modernize the USF to ensure its long-term sustainability by increasing transparency and accountability into how USF monies are spent across the four programs it supports. This will ensure that the funds are spent judiciously and go further in expanding access to communications services across the country. I also believe USF should be better coordinated with other Federal broadband programs, like BEAD, to avoid fragmentation, duplication, overbuilding, and the waste of taxpayer dollars.

*Question 5.* Would you support creating future Tribal Priority Windows or other public interest set-asides to ensure Tribal Nations and unserved communities can access spectrum and grow their communities directly, rather than waiting on commercial deployment?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to putting spectrum to its highest and best use and maximizing the economic and societal benefits of spectrum use to ensure the best return for all people across the country, including those living on Tribal lands. In Auction 108 (2.5 GHz), the FCC established a Tribal priority window in recognition of the unique connectivity needs and challenges facing Tribal lands. This particular auction can help inform how future opportunities for direct access to spectrum in Tribal communities can expand competition and access to modern communications services in unserved or underserved areas.

*Question 6.* When we met in my office you said that both President Biden and President Trump were the “certified” winners in 2020 and 2024 respectively. You would not say whether of them were “lawfully” elected. *Yes or no, were 100 members of the currently sitting U.S. Senate lawfully elected?*

Answer. All 100 members of the sitting U.S. Senate were certified as the winners of each of their respective elections.

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RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. JOHN HICKENLOOPER TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

### **Media Oversight**

Chairman Carr has initiated investigations into Disney, ABC, Comcast, CBS, and others regarding what he sees as discriminatory practices or unfair news coverage. These investigations come at a time when Congress has worked on a bipartisan basis to attract journalists to newsrooms in Colorado and across the country.

*Question 1.* Do you think Chairman Carr’s investigations of broadcasters could negatively affect attracting future journalists to newsrooms? Why or why not?

Answer. As a nominee to be a Commissioner at the FCC, I believe it would be imprudent for me to comment on the impact of any pending proceeding before the Commission. That said, I believe local news is vital to communities across the country. Local broadcasters provide news and information about social and cultural events, educational programming, and critical information during emergencies and disasters. If confirmed, I commit to promoting policies that empower local broadcasters to expand access to local news to all Americans.

### **Spectrum Relocation Fund**

The Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF) provides a funding mechanism through which Federal agencies can recover the costs associated with relocating their radio communications systems or sharing the reallocated spectrum.

*Question 2.* What changes do you think need to be made to the SRF to enable agencies to continue performing their Federal missions without harmful interference from potential commercial uses of reallocated spectrum? In your view, could a reformed SRF allow for increases in non-federal uses of spectrum? Will you commit to carefully considering the perspectives raised by Federal agencies and work to ensure spectrum decisions made by the FCC fully account for necessary steps to mitigate potential interference?

Answer. I believe the Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF) is an important tool in the spectrum management process. I am aware of concerns from Federal agencies regarding delays in accessing SRF resources and constraints on how the SRF monies can be used. I believe the SRF should be modernized to be a more effective tool in the spectrum management process. If confirmed, I commit to carefully considering the perspectives raised by Federal agencies and working to ensure spectrum decisions account for necessary steps to mitigate potential interference.

*Question 3.* How can the FCC coordinate with industry and other Federal agencies to develop and incentivize the adoption of technologies that minimize harmful interference and increase flexible access to spectrum?

Answer. I believe that the FCC should coordinate with NTIA and consult with impacted Federal agencies, through established mechanisms such as the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee and the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee to ensure that spectrum management decisions, including auctions, are informed by economic and national security analysis and incentivize the adoption of technologies that minimize harmful interference and increase flexible access to spectrum.

### **Data Privacy and Cybersecurity**

Breaches such as Salt Typhoon demonstrate the need for increased preventive and corrective cybersecurity measures. In the past, the FCC has pursued consent decrees with companies to resolve investigations over data breaches. Data breaches can cause harmful exposure of consumers' data and cyber attacks can damage key communications services.

*Question 4.* In what specific ways could the FCC further incentivize measures to increase resiliency across the communications sector from data breaches and cybersecurity attacks? To date, do you believe the FCC's pursuit of consent decrees has been sufficient? Should the FCC consider new rulemakings to encourage enhanced protections from cyberattacks and data breaches?

Answer. If confirmed, I will promote the adoption of Open RAN technologies, which can help strengthen and diversify the Nation's telecommunications supply chain and increase resiliency across the communications sector from data breaches and cybersecurity attacks.

I believe the FCC should increase transparency into enforcement actions, to the extent possible, to ensure that consent decrees improve compliance, deterrence, and lead to a faster resolution of rule violations.

To enhance network protections from cyberattacks and data breaches, I believe the FCC needs to work with Federal partners to ensure telecommunications providers have the tools and resources they need to defend their networks against malicious cyber threat actors. This includes working with telecommunications providers to improve their cyber hygiene to counter increasingly sophisticated and hostile cyber threat actors. I also believe the FCC should participate in ongoing whole-of-government conversations about how to improve the efficacy of the United States' deterrence efforts against nation state actors, which can further protect our Nation's networks from cyberattacks and data breaches.

### **Direct to Cell**

Reliable communications can be a lifeline in a public safety emergency or while exploring the great outdoors across the mountains of Colorado. Last month, the FCC approved rules for expanding cellular coverage for cellphones outside of cell tower range using satellite communications. In a remote environment, direct to cell service could help enhance public safety and save lives.

*Question 5.* If confirmed, what will your priorities be to enhance the reliability and accessibility of public safety communications services? What future improvements do you see in the field of direct to cell services?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to working with Congress and interested stakeholders to improve back-up power solutions and promote the hardening of communications infrastructure to enhance the reliability and accessibility of public safety communications services. I would also advocate for more accurate, timely, and accessible information in the FCC's Disaster Information Reporting System.

Some future improvements in direct-to-cell services could include broader device capability with these services, more support for 911 or location tracking capabilities during emergencies or disasters, and wider geographic coverage.

### **Telecom Supply Chain**

In order for us to succeed in our efforts to connect every American to high-speed and affordable broadband, we need reliable, secure, and readily-available supply of infrastructure network equipment.

*Question 6.* What role should the FCC play in continuously monitoring and strengthening supply chains to support our existing and future communications networks? Do you believe the FCC should receive more voluntary notifications, on a timely basis, from the private sector about potential shortages of network equipment that could impede the timely completion of broadband infrastructure projects funded by the FCC?

Answer. I believe that transparency into the health and resilience of the Nation's telecommunications supply chain is vital to the FCC's continued ability to close the digital divide and strengthen network security. Voluntary notifications from the private sector about potential equipment shortages could help the FCC quickly address such shortages and ensure the timely completion of broadband projects.

RESPONSE TO WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED BY HON. LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER TO  
OLIVIA TRUSTY

*Question 1.* Should consumer protection be a top FCC priority?

Answer. If confirmed, protecting consumers is among my top priorities. I believe that protecting consumers is critical to the FCC's mission in making communications services available to all Americans.

*Question 2.* Ms. Trusty, do you think Federal workers at the FCC are crucial for advancing consumer transparency?

Answer. FCC staff are critical to carrying out the mission of the agency in expanding access to communications services, advancing consumer transparency, and upholding and enforcing the law.

*Question 3.* Last year, the FCC introduced "broadband nutrition labels" to show what ISPs charge. However, potential Federal staffing or funding cuts could jeopardize this and similar initiatives.

Ms. Trusty, for consumer transparency purposes, will you commit to defending the broadband nutrition label program if it, and programs like it, face cuts?

Answer. In accordance with the bipartisan Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act, the FCC has a responsibility to establish rules requiring the display of broadband consumer labels (also referred to as the "broadband nutrition label program"). If confirmed, I commit to uphold and enforce these rules—or any successor rules—in accordance with the law.

*Question 4.* What concrete measures would you implement to improve telehealth access and quality for underserved Americans?

Answer. If confirmed, I commit to coordinating with Federal partners to better target broadband funds to underserved areas to provide improved support for telehealth-enabling infrastructure. I also commit to promoting the use of the FCC's special temporary authority to experiment with expanding access to telehealth initiatives.

*Question 5.* Ms. Trusty, what additional policy reforms or actions should the FCC pursue to ensure broadband deployment is strategically targeted to underserved communities?

Answer. If confirmed, I would work to increase broadband connectivity in rural areas by doing the following: coordinating with other Federal agencies with broadband programs to eliminate program fragmentation and duplication across the Federal government and ensure Federal resources are better targeted to unserved areas; remove regulatory barriers that impede or increase the cost of deploying broadband to rural areas; embrace new technologies such as satellite broadband or fixed wireless services that can provide a more cost effective solution in expanding connectivity to rural, unserved areas; and consider adjustments to USF programs to better target resources to unserved communities.

