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For Immediate Release

**FCC PROPOSES RULES TO SPEED AVAILABILITY OF
INNOVATIVE TECHNOLOGIES AND SERVICES**

WASHINGTON, February 22, 2018—The Federal Communications Commission today adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to ensure that innovative new technologies and services that would serve the public interest are encouraged and made available to the public on a timely basis. Technological advancements have continually expanded the boundaries of communications services, fueled the economic engine of the United States, and benefitted American consumers.

Specifically, the NPRM proposes rules and procedures to implement Section 7 of the Communications Act, which was passed by Congress in 1983 to require timely action by the Commission to encourage provision of new technologies and services to the public.

Clear rules and guidelines on implementing section 7 are long overdue. While the Commission has a long history of facilitating the introduction of new technologies and services, the regulatory path from technological breakthrough to authorization of service has often been too long and arduous.

The NPRM proposes rules for Commission evaluation of petitions or applications proposing new technologies and service. In addition, the NPRM seeks comment on how the Commission can comply with the statutory requirements of section 7 for Commission-initiated proceedings for new technologies or services.

Action by the Commission February 22, 2018 by Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (FCC 18-18). Chairman Pai, Commissioners O’Rielly and Carr approving. Commissioner Clyburn approving in part and dissenting in part. Commissioner Rosenworcel dissenting. Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O’Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel issuing separate statements.

GN Docket No. 18-22

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