

**REMARKS OF FCC CHIEF OF STAFF MATTHEW BERRY  
AT THE JOINT FCC-FTC STOP ILLEGAL ROBOCALLS EXPO**

**WASHINGTON, DC**

**APRIL 23, 2018**

Good morning. On behalf of Chairman Pai and the FCC, welcome to today's Stop Illegal Robocalls Expo.

I'd like to thank everyone for coming today to learn about the latest technological solutions for combatting illegal robocalls. Thank you to all of the vendors here to showcase their solutions. We have nearly twenty service providers, app developers, and other innovators with us. It's great to see so many companies applying their talents to help address this challenge. And finally, a special thanks to our co-host, the Federal Trade Commission.

As many of you know, today's Expo is a follow-up to the Joint Policy Forum we organized with the FTC last month, where we brought together voice service providers, consumer groups, and federal and state government representatives, among others, to discuss the work they've been doing to stop illegal robocalls.

And I'm certain that this will not be the final chapter in the FCC-FTC partnership to fight unwanted and unlawful robocalls. Both agencies understand that the American people are demanding action on this issue, and that no government agency or company can solve this problem on its own. Accordingly, we will continue to coordinate and do our part to protect U.S. consumers from the scourge of robocalls.

While it's only been a few weeks since the Joint Policy Forum, we've seen some notable developments since we were last together.

As part of the Omnibus Appropriations bill, Congress expanded the FCC's ability to go after robocallers who engage in Caller ID spoofing, which is the use of a fake originating number to mask a caller's true identity. Specifically, the new law allows us to take action against spoofed calls that originate outside the United States and gives us new authority to combat spoofed text messages.

And just last week, the Senate Commerce Committee held a hearing on the problem of illegal robocalls. I would note that the FCC and FTC sat shoulder-to-shoulder at the witness table, with the FCC's Enforcement Bureau Chief Rosemary Harold doing an outstanding job representing the Commission.

I know that today's Expo is specifically focused on technological solutions to the robocall challenge. But if there's an overarching theme, it's the need for collaborative solutions. There isn't one silver bullet that is going to end the scourge of illegal robocalls. Thanks in large part to technology that makes it incredibly easy and cheap to make large numbers of spoofed robocalls, this is a difficult problem to solve, and everyone needs to play their part in getting the job done. That's why it's important that Congress is actively engaged. That's why it's important that the FCC and FTC are working together. That's why it's important that the private sector is coming up with new ways to combat unwanted and unlawful robocalls. And that's why it's important for the American people to learn about the options that are available to them right now to reduce the number of robocalls they receive.

Let me close with a story. Since becoming the head of the agency, Chairman Pai has been touring the country off-and-on to visit communities that have largely been bypassed by the digital revolution. So far, he's logged nearly 5,000 road miles in more than 20 states and found himself in some pretty far-flung locations. On a lot of these stops, he likes to pop into the local radio or TV station, and

earlier this month, Chairman Pai stopped by Hometown Radio in Danville, Kentucky. Folks at the station were quite excited, as it's not every day that the head of the federal agency that oversees their industry stops by. As usual, the Chairman asked the staff of this local radio station for their thoughts on what the FCC should be doing. And given an audience with the nation's top media regulator, the station manager urged the Chairman to do something about robocalls.

It just goes to show that it doesn't matter who you are, what you do, or where you live. Pretty much everybody in America understands that unwanted robocalls need to be curtailed. That's why we're all here today. I encourage you to stop by the exhibits and see how you can fight illegal robocalls. Given the number of robocalls that I receive, I certainly will be doing so. And I look forward to continued collaboration with all of you until we give the American people the relief that they deserve.

Thank you.