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For Immediate Release

FCC ELIMINATES OUTDATED CABLE OPERATOR RECORDKEEPING RULE

WASHINGTON, September 29, 2020—The Federal Communications Commission today adopted a Report and Order eliminating the requirement that cable operators maintain records in their online public inspection files regarding their interests in video programming services. The Order also eliminates the related requirement that cable operators maintain in their online public inspection files information regarding their carriage of these services on cable systems they own.

These requirements contained in section 76.1710 of the Commission's rules were adopted over 25 years ago to help police compliance with the Commission's channel occupancy limits. However, these limits were reversed and remanded by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in 2001, and the Commission has previously determined that no sound evidence or methodology has been offered for establishing new limits. Given that these requirements no longer serve their intended purpose and the information covered by the rule can be obtained from sources other than public inspection files, the Commission voted to remove this unnecessary and outdated regulatory burden on cable operators. This action is the Commission's 24th order in its Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).