

WIRELINER COMPETITION BUREAU

OVERVIEW OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS FROM
JANUARY 2017 TO JANUARY 2021



WCB in a Snapshot



Mission:

- Ensure that all Americans have access to robust, affordable broadband and voice services
- Protect consumers and foster competition

Organization:

- Front Office and three Divisions – Competition Policy, Pricing Policy, and Telecommunications Access Policy
- Oversee three Federal Advisory Committees – North American Numbering Council, Broadband Deployment Advisory Committee, and Precision Agriculture Connectivity Task Force
- 157 Strong!

Closing the Digital Divide

- *Expanded Broadband in High-Cost Areas to Serve Millions of Americans*
- *Further Strengthened Universal Service by Enhancing Programmatic Efficiency and Accountability*
- *Promoted Broadband Deployment and Competition with One-Touch Make-Ready and Pole Attachment Reform*
- *Removed Regulatory Barriers to Upgrading Networks and Transitioning to Next-Generation Technologies*

Since 2016, the number of rural Americans lacking access to broadband service of at least 25/3 Mbps has fallen by more than 46%.

Promoting Innovation

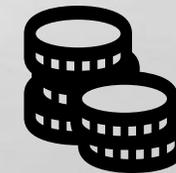
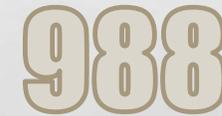
Restored Internet Freedom, by returning to the longstanding, bipartisan light-touch regulatory framework that had fostered rapid Internet growth, openness, and freedom for nearly 20 years. Since adoption, the average fixed broadband download speed in the United States has more than doubled according to a recent study.

“I strongly believe in a free and open Internet. Our rules will ensure that we have a free and open Internet, and Americans will have access to better, faster, and cheaper broadband.”

- FCC Chairman Ajit Pai

Protecting Consumers and Public Safety

- **Strengthened our Communications Networks' Supply Chain** by ending USF support for Huawei and ZTE equipment and services
- **Combated Caller ID Spoofing** by mandating the implementation of SHAKEN/STIR
- **Assisted Incarcerated Individuals and Their Families** by reforming rates, charges, and practices for inmate calling services
- **Helped Americans in Crisis** by designating 988 to become the nationwide suicide prevention and mental health crisis hotline number beginning July 16, 2022
- **Saved Consumers Money** by eliminating wasteful arbitrage schemes





- ***Modernized Outdated Network Unbundling Obligations***
- ***Eliminated Tariffing and Ex Ante Pricing Regulation of High-Speed Services***
- ***Conducted the Commission's First-Ever Auction of Toll-Free Numbers***
- ***Removed Unnecessary Accounting Requirements for Carriers***
- ***Removed Outdated Legacy Voice Service Regulations***

Responding to the COVID-19 Pandemic

- *Quickly Built and Launched a New \$200 Million COVID-19 Telehealth Program*
- *Ensured Connectivity for Schools, Libraries, and Health Care Facilities*
- *Partnered with Department of Education to Promote CARES Act Funding for Remote Learning*
- *Waived Lifeline Program Rules to Help Low-Income Consumers*
- *Provided Regulatory Relief to Ensure Consumers Would Not Lose Access to Zoom and WebEx*
- *Began Implementation of the 3.2 Billion Emergency Broadband Connectivity Fund*

KEEP AMERICANS
CONNECTED



Conclusion: It's Been a Busy and Productive Four Years

- *Circulated (and the Commission adopted) over 160 Commission-level items*
- *Adopted and/or released over 2,700 Bureau-level items*
- *Resolved nearly 4,000 USAC appeals*
- *Processed over 235 section 214 Transfer of Control Transactions and 292 Discontinuance Applications*
- *Processed over 15,000 Tariff Filings*

WIRELINE COMPETITION BUREAU

**Thank you
to the tremendous
WCB staff!**