



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Mike Quigley  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2000 Rayburn House Office Building (G Floor)  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Quigley:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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- The ECFS API user guide has been rewritten to give plain-English instructions on how to use the API. The data dictionary referred to above is also referenced in those instructions.

All three of these documents will be available from the ECFS help pages at <https://www.fcc.gov/ecfs/help>.

Thank you for your interest in this matter. At your request, I will be happy to provide any further updates you might need in the future.

Sincerely,

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Jessica Rosenworcel

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The Honorable Robert C. Scott  
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The Honorable Thomas Carper  
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke  
The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries  
The Honorable Gregory W. Meeks  
The Honorable Paul Tonko  
The Honorable Nydia Velazquez



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Steve Womack  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1016 Longworth Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Womack:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
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March 21, 2022

The Honorable Chris Van Hollen  
Chairman  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
United States Senate  
S-128 The Capital Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Van Hollen:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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March 21, 2022

The Honorable Cindy Hyde-Smith  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Appropriations  
Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government  
United States Senate  
125 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Hyde-Smith:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Chair  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Madam Chair:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
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March 21, 2022

The Honorable Roger Wicker  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
United States Senate  
425 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Wicker:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
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March 21, 2022

The Honorable Frank Pallone  
Chairman  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2125 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Pallone:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
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March 21, 2022

The Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2322A Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member McMorris Rodgers:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Gary Peters  
Chairman  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
340 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Peters:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

March 21, 2022

The Honorable Rob Portman  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
United States Senate  
442 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Ranking Member Portman:

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
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OFFICE OF THE  
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March 21, 2022

The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney  
Chairwoman  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2157 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairwoman Maloney:

On September 21, 2021, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) released a report entitled “Federal Rulemaking: Selected Agencies Should Fully Describe Public Comment Data and Their Limitations.” As the Commission’s Managing Director, Mark Stephens, said in his letter of September 3, 2021, we agree with GAO’s recommendation that we should “fully describe available public comment data, including what data elements mean and any limitations, to external users of the data.” We have been working to upgrade our Electronic Comment Filing System (ECFS) to a more modern infrastructure, and the current plan is to release a new version, ECFS v4.0, to the public within the next few months. That upgrade includes improvements to address GAO’s recommendation, including the following:

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March 21, 2022

The Honorable James R. Comer  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2471 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Ranking Member Comer:

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