



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE  
CHAIRWOMAN

December 22, 2022

The Honorable Marco Rubio  
United States Senate  
284 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Rubio:

Thank you for your letter raising concerns about an application filed with the Federal Communications Commission to modify the ARCOS-1 Submarine Cable System to add a new landing point in Cuba. On December 16, 2022, the applicants, ARCOS-1 USA Inc. and A.SurNet Inc., notified the Commission that they are withdrawing their application. The Commission provided public notice of the withdrawal on December 22, 2022, and accordingly the application is no longer under consideration.

The applicants filed their application with the Commission on September 28, 2021. On November 26, 2021, the Commission referred the application to the Committee for the Assessment of Foreign Participation in the United States Telecommunications Services Sector to review any national security and law enforcement concerns associated with the application. On November 29, 2022, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration filed a recommendation on behalf of the Committee requesting that the Commission deny the application. Specifically, the Committee found risks to national security and law enforcement interests of the United States that could not be mitigated because the Cuban government is a foreign adversary and because a State-owned entity would have control over the proposed submarine cable and the capability to access the personal data and communications of U.S. citizens transmitting across the cable. The Committee also raised concerns that the Cuban government's relationship with the People's Republic of China and the Russian Federation heightened the national security threat to the United States. Shortly thereafter, the applicants notified the Commission that they were withdrawing their application.

The Commission takes seriously its responsibility to protect the security of the nation's communications networks and services. I appreciate the opportunity to respond to your concerns. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel".

Jessica Rosenworcel