

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Review of International Section 214 Authorizations to Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks*, IB Docket No. 23-119; *Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules*, MD Docket No. 23-134, Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (April 20, 2023).

The first duty of the public servant is public safety. At the Federal Communications Commission, that means that we have an obligation to help ensure the safety of our Nation's communications networks. This responsibility never ends because the threats to network security are always evolving. It is vitally important that the agency's policies keep pace. That sounds simple, but in practice it is not always easy. This is especially true when it comes to licensing, where historically our practice has been to freeze national security and law enforcement assessments on the day a license is granted.

Nearly three years ago the United States Senate Committee on Homeland Security and Government Affairs Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations released a report on threats to United States networks from Chinese government-owned carriers. In it, they highlighted how the grant of authority to operate international communications in the United States is typically a one-and-done activity. In other words, once a Commission license is granted, little is done to revisit the authority and safeguard our networks against evolving threats over time.

Today there is nothing in our rules that requires the Commission to generally reassess a foreign carrier's authorization to provide service. This is in stark contrast to most other authorizations granted by the agency that must be considered on a periodic basis. That is why the Subcommittee recommended requiring some form of regular review of Section 214 authorizations to account for evolving national security risks.

This was a good idea then and it is a good idea now. So today we launch a rulemaking to explore this concept along with other improvements to our Section 214 rules. I believe we can modernize our process to address these concerns while ensuring that we honor the expectations of Section 214 license holders so that the United States remains a safe and attractive place to do business. This rulemaking sets us on that path.

This is just the latest step in our comprehensive approach to addressing network security in a modern way. It is fundamentally a strategy to *deter, defend, and develop*: deter bad actors, defend against untrusted vendors, and develop a market for trustworthy innovation. By doing this, we are working to help improve communications security at home and shine as an example for the rest of the world. That's why it's fitting that this is the first effort from our newly-established Office of International Affairs.

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