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For Immediate Release

**CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL SHARES PLAN TO BRING
RELIABLE ACCESS TO BROADBAND TO REMOTE AREAS**

Would Create Enhanced A-CAM Program To Widely Deploy 100/20 Mbps Service

WASHINGTON, June 16, 2023—Today, Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel circulated an order to her colleagues that would create the Enhanced Alternative Connect America Cost Model (A-CAM) program to require deployment of 100/20 Mbps or faster service to all locations served by the program. A-CAM carriers currently serve some of the most remote areas of the nation.

“The Commission’s universal service high-cost programs have a track record of supporting networks that connect remote communities across the country,” **said Rosenworcel**. “But to keep pace with the demand for reliable broadband and meet the needs of consumers today and into the future, we need to optimize these programs to bring higher speeds and greater bandwidth to consumers.”

If adopted, the order would require that participating carriers serve all locations in their service areas at 100/20 Mbps or greater in return for an extension of the A-CAM program and an incremental increase in support for expensive-to-serve areas. The Enhanced A-CAM program would complement existing federal, state, and local funding programs, including the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment (BEAD) program, authorized by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The order would also provide an opportunity for legacy rate-of-return carriers to bring 100/20 Mbps broadband to their customers in return for a term of stable support.

The Chairwoman also circulated a rulemaking and inquiry that would seek comment on further reforms to the legacy rate-of-return system and methods for modifying the Universal Service Fund’s high-cost program to support ongoing expenses for broadband networks, particularly those built with capital funds from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and other recent federal and state efforts.

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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).