Carr Statement on the Biden Administration's Spectrum Miss

The Administration's Spectrum Plan is Missing a Necessary Component: Spectrum

WASHINGTON, DC, November 13, 2023—FCC Commissioner Carr issued the following statement:

Today, the Biden Administration released its much-anticipated <u>plan</u> for freeing up spectrum—the airwaves necessary to secure U.S. leadership in wireless and connect millions of Americans to high-speed Internet services. Bold and immediate action on spectrum is vital because the federal government's progress on spectrum has stalled out under the current Administration.

So how much spectrum does the Biden Administration's spectrum plan commit to providing? Zero. After nearly three years of study, the Biden Administration does not commit to freeing up even a single MHz of spectrum. Instead, they are announcing that they will continue studying the issue for years to come.

While America is standing still, our global competitors and adversaries are passing us by. They are executing on actual spectrum plans that are putting actual spectrum to use in their countries.

What we are seeing right now is a complete 180 from the progress we made under the prior Administration. From 2017 through 2020, the FCC freed up roughly 6,000 MHz of spectrum for licensed use alone plus thousands of additional MHz of spectrum for unlicensed use. The Biden Administration only plans to study less than 2,800 MHz. In other words, the Trump Administration put more spectrum into the commercial marketplace for consumer use than the Biden Administration plans to study—and it is not even close.

Results matter. That is why I put out an actual spectrum <u>plan</u> in March of 2021 that identified specific frequencies and a timeline for action. My plan would have allowed the U.S. to continue to move on spectrum matters with the same pace, cadence, and urgency that we did during the last Administration.

It is time to correct course. Whether the agency adopts my plan or something else, it is time for the FCC to put forward an actual spectrum plan.

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