CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL STATEMENT ON 5TH CIRCUIT RULING AGAINST THE UNIVERSAL SERVICE FUND

WASHINGTON, July 24, 2024—Chairwoman Rosenworcel issued the following statement today after the Fifth Circuit ruled, 9-7, that the Universal Service Fund is unconstitutional as currently administered.

“This decision is misguided and wrong. It upends decades of bipartisan support for FCC programs that help communications reach the most rural and least-connected households in our country, as well as hospitals, schools, and libraries nationwide. The opinion reflects a lack of understanding of the statutory scheme that helped create the world’s best and most far-reaching communications network. We will pursue all available avenues for review.”

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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).