



## OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR

### **Chairman Carr Announces Rules to Accelerate Submarine Cable Buildout, Secure Cables Against Foreign Adversaries**

*Action Can Boost America's Leadership in AI and Next-Gen Technologies*

WASHINGTON, July 16, 2025—FCC Chairman Brendan Carr today announced that the agency will vote on rules to unleash submarine cable investment to accelerate the buildout of AI infrastructure, while securing cables against foreign adversaries, like China. This action is in line with President Trump's America First Investment Policy Memorandum: guard against investment from foreign adversaries—most notably the CCP—while accelerating investment in high-tech industries of the future.

#### **Chairman Carr issued the following statement:**

“Submarine cables are the unsung heroes of global communications, carrying 99% of all Internet traffic. As the U.S. builds out the data centers and other infrastructure necessary to lead the world in AI and next-gen technologies, these cables are more important than ever. At the same time, as President Trump has long recognized: ‘economic security is national security.’ We have seen submarine cable infrastructure threatened in recent years by foreign adversaries, like China. We are therefore taking action here to guard our submarine cables against foreign adversary ownership, and access as well as cyber and physical threats.”

#### **Additional Background:**

Chairman Carr today shared a Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking with his colleagues for consideration at the Commission's August 7, 2025 Open Meeting. If adopted, this Report and Order would adopt a range of measures to protect submarine cables against foreign adversaries—apply a presumption of denial for certain foreign adversary-controlled license applicants, limiting capacity leasing agreements to such entities, prohibiting the use of “covered” equipment, establishing cybersecurity and physical security requirements, and more—all while streamlining the Commission's license review procedures.

In the FNPRM, the Commission also proposes and seeks comment on various additional measures to protect submarine cable security against foreign adversary equipment and services, while incentivizing the use of American submarine cable repair and maintenance ships and the use of trusted technology abroad. Notably, the FCC also seeks comment on a proposal to presumptively entirely exempt from Team Telecom review license applications that meet a high-level security standard.

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