



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Brendan Carr
Chairman

April 30, 2025

Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

RE: Ranking Member Cantwell March 31 Letter

Dear Ranking Member Cantwell,

Thank you for your March 31, 2025, letter. I welcome the opportunity to share some of the important work I have undertaken during my time as Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). In these opening few weeks and months as Chairman, I have taken steps to bridge the digital divide, free up more spectrum for consumer use, promote our national security, protect consumers, expand our space economy, and much much more.¹ My actions have been focused on improving the lives of Americans and returning the FCC to its important statutory mission.

Consistent with the Communications Act and President Trump's January 20, 2025, Executive Order, "Ending Radical and Wasteful Government DEI Programs and Preferencing," I promptly eliminated DEI at the FCC.² The first section of the Communications Act tasks the FCC with regulating interstate and foreign commerce in communications "without discrimination on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, or sex."³ To return the FCC to its statutory mission, I eliminated the promotion of DEI from the FCC's strategic plan, budget, and advisory committee directives, terminated the FCC's DEI advisory group and Digital Discrimination Task Force, rescinded the FCC's DEI equity action plan, and removed the promotion of DEI from the FCC's annual performance plan and DEI analysis from FCC economic reports. These actions restored the FCC's institutional focus on the important statutory business of the agency.

Over the last six months, the FCC's workforce has changed for a number of reasons. At the beginning of Fiscal Year 2025, the FCC employed 1,461 full-time employees. As of April 28, 2025, the FCC employed 1,383 full-time employees. The difference over that six-month

¹ See Press Release, Chairman Carr, Chairman Carr Highlights Wins Delivered During First 100 Days (April 29, 2025), <https://www.fcc.gov/document/chairman-carr-highlights-wins-delivered-during-first-100-days>

² See Exec. Order No. 14151, 3 C.F.R. 8339 (2025) <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/ending-radical-and-wasteful-government-dei-programs-and-preferencing/>

³ 47 U.S.C. § 151

period can be attributed to many factors, including FCC employees who took advantage of the early retirement window opened by my predecessor, the deferred resignation program offered by President Trump, and natural turnover. To date, there has not been a large-scale separation event at the FCC. I am confident the agency will continue to be able to carry out its statutory mission. In fact, we are going to deliver great results on an efficient basis.

I agree with President Trump: in order to effectively serve the American people, government agencies must operate more efficiently. There has long been bipartisan support for this. In 2011, President Obama signed an Executive Order directing the government to cut waste and streamline government operations.⁴ Across the board, the FCC will be responsible stewards of taxpayers' hard-earned money. The FCC has been performing a comprehensive review of all funding, activities, programs, and projects to ensure that they are consistent with our priorities, including eliminating wasteful spending. As part of this effort, the FCC has already saved millions in cancelled or modified contracts.

I am grateful that I have had the opportunity to work at the FCC for more than 12 years now, starting off as an attorney advisor back in 2012. I can testify first-hand to the unique talents of FCC staff and the important work they do. Through this experience, I have also identified places where the agency could gain efficiencies and eliminate redundant processes—freeing up staff to do what they do best.

Along with drawing on my own 12-year experience and the perspectives of FCC staff, I have invited the Department of Government Efficiency (DOGE) into the building to get a fresh set of eyes on the way we operate. Subsequently, two people from DOGE officially joined the FCC. It's good to have a new vantage point on procedures and for people to look at the agency's practices from a first principles perspective. As is required for all new employees, these individuals followed the appropriate and applicable ethics and financial disclosure guidelines. The FCC's Ethics Office within the Office of General Counsel facilitated this process to ensure compliance. Like all other FCC employees, the new members of the agency team have followed, and will continue to follow, appropriate cybersecurity protocols.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the FCC's work. We are moving quickly to deliver great results for the American people.

Sincerely,



Brendan Carr
Chairman

⁴ See Exec. Order No. 13576, 3 C.F.R. 35297 (2011) <https://obamawhitehouse.archives.gov/the-press-office/2011/06/13/executive-order-13576-delivering-efficient-effective-and-accountable-gov>