

**Remarks by FCC Commissioner Olivia Trusty**

**“Building in the New Golden Age: How Mississippi Leads in America’s  
Digital Future”**

**University of Mississippi Medical Center (UMMC)**

**Jackson, Mississippi**

**August 6, 2025**

Good morning, everyone.

Thank you, Kristy Simms and the incredible team here at UMMC for hosting us, and a special thanks to Senator Wicker and his team for the warm Mississippi welcome. It’s great to be back here in Jackson and back at the University of Mississippi Medical Center, this time in my new role as FCC Commissioner.

Before joining the FCC, I had the honor of working for Senator Wicker. During my time in the Senate, I had a front-row seat to the work happening at UMMC, work that changes lives every single day. It’s no surprise that this institution is known across the state, across the country, and around the world for its medical excellence and innovative leadership.

UMMC is proof that when Mississippi talent meets modern technology, there’s no limit to what can be achieved.

And nowhere is that more clear than at the Center for Telehealth. UMMC’s telehealth program has become a national model, showing how broadband can deliver quality, life-saving care straight into people’s homes, whether they’re down the road or five counties over. For many Mississippians, this kind of access isn’t a luxury, it’s a lifeline.

That’s why I’m here today. Because in 2025, access to broadband isn’t just about faster Netflix or a clearer Facetime call, it’s about healthcare. It’s about education.

It's about economic opportunity. It's about staying safe in a hurricane. And it's about making sure rural communities don't get left behind.

Under FCC Chairman Carr's leadership, the Commission has launched what we call the **Build America Agenda**, a bold plan to expand broadband access, secure our communications networks, and restore America's leadership in next-generation technologies.

Let me break down what this means, not in D.C. policy speak, but in real terms for Mississippi towns, families, and businesses.

**First, the Build America Agenda means universal connectivity.**

That means closing the digital divide, for good. By the end of this summer, the FCC will have taken action to speed up rural broadband buildout, replace outdated copper networks with fiber, and remove federal red tape that slows down investment in places that need it most.

Here in Mississippi, the momentum is already taking hold. The Office of Broadband Expansion and Accessibility of Mississippi or BEAM is helping push forward 12 new broadband projects, many in hard-to-reach communities. That's more homes online, more small businesses connected, and more doctors able to serve patients across distances that once seemed insurmountable.

Helping us get there is the Universal Service Fund, which the Supreme Court just reaffirmed as constitutional. That gives the FCC a strong foundation to keep working with Congress and industry to meet the needs of rural America, not just in theory, but in concrete, practical ways.

But fiber and spectrum alone don't get the job done. It also takes people.

That's why workforce readiness is key. I want to recognize folks like Jimmy Miller down in Gulfport, who is building a homegrown telecommunications workforce from the ground up. Because when we train Mississippians for good-paying jobs laying fiber, climbing towers, or running networks, we're investing in both our infrastructure and our future.

**Second, the Build America Agenda means restoring America's leadership in next-generation communications technologies.**

Thanks to the work of Congress and President Trump's *One Big Beautiful Bill*, the FCC's general auction authority has been restored. That means we're now able to bring 800 megahertz of prime spectrum to market, the fuel we need for wireless innovation, smarter telehealth tools, and stronger, faster service.

More spectrum means better coverage in places where bars on your phone are still hit or miss. It means a boost for entrepreneurs from Pontotoc to Gulfport trying to run businesses online. And it means we can keep our national security and economic edge, especially in the face of growing international competition.

And let's not forget about space. In addition to Mississippi being known for catfish, cotton, and college football, it is also home to the Stennis Space Center, which is already playing a significant role in America's space economy.

The FCC is working to modernize our satellite licensing processes, free up more airwaves for rural satellite broadband, and eliminate outdated regulations that hold back innovation. Because whether it's from a cell tower in the Delta or a satellite orbiting earth, every Mississippian deserves a connection they can count on.

**Finally, the Build America Agenda is about enhancing public safety, national security, and protecting consumers.**

We're making sure broadband providers keep their promises, building where they said they'd build, and delivering the speeds families need.

We're cracking down on illegal robocalls, especially the ones that prey on older Mississippians with scams that look like healthcare help but are really fraud in disguise.

We're upgrading our emergency alert systems, because whether it's a hurricane warning or an Amber Alert, timely, reliable communications saves lives.

And we're working shoulder-to-shoulder with our partners in government to keep cyber threats from foreign adversaries out of our communications networks.

All of these pieces, broadband access, innovation, public safety, come together to improve lives, grow local economies, and ensure every corner of this state, and this country, can thrive in the digital age.

Now, today marks day 44 on the job for me at the FCC. And in just these few weeks, I've seen how the Build America Agenda is making a difference. But there's a long road ahead. We're not letting up. Because whether you live in Desoto or Jackson County, we believe every American deserves a fair shot at opportunity, and that starts with being connected.

I look forward to continuing this work with Chairman Carr, Senator Wicker, UMMC, and partners across Mississippi. Together, we're building something stronger, not just for today, but for the next generation.

Thank you.