

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Expediting Initial Processing of Satellite and Earth Station Applications and Space Innovation*,
IB Docket Nos. 22-411 and 22-271, Second Report and Order (August 7, 2025).

A key pillar of our Build America Agenda is boosting the U.S. space economy. And it's not hard to see why.

The value of the global space economy just passed a whopping [\\$600 billion](#). And ensuring that American companies secure leadership positions means more jobs and economic opportunity for the country.

And I am confident that our businesses will lead the world if we get the regulatory framework right. I saw some of that great, U.S. innovation just last month on a visit about an hour from here in Leesburg, Virginia. That's where I visited a company that launched the first non-geostationary satellite constellation all the way back in the 1990s. Thirty years later, they now operate a network of satellites that provides connectivity for customers across every sector of modern transportation—rail, shipping, trucking, energy, and aviation.

To help America's space companies continue to succeed and grow, we are not only working to speed up and simplify our processes, but we are also working to promote more flexibility. After all, a one-size-fits-all approach to regulation does not match the realities of the evolving space economy.

As we heard from today's presentation, we've already made significant progress toward reducing the time it takes to move through our regulatory review processes. For example, our Space Bureau has already cut the backlog of pending applications in half.

With today's action, we are taking the next step.

Often, paperwork piles up because our rules ask for too many unnecessary filings. Making the smallest change to a satellite system or earth station can require a new FCC approval. So, the Order we adopt today will eliminate FCC approval requirements for a range of routine changes that pose no risk to the public. One of our reforms will eliminate roughly half of earth station modification applications. Through these and other streamlining improvements, the FCC will hold itself accountable to more predictable timelines, such as a 30-day shot clock for earth station renewal applications.

Eliminating unnecessary paperwork doesn't just improve efficiency—it kickstarts American innovation. In particular, our reforms promise to boost an emerging business model—Ground-Station-as-a-Service—that allows multiple satellite systems to share the same ground station. This neutral-host infrastructure model has already proven to be successful in the wireless industry. By sparing companies the time and money to build their own bespoke infrastructure, we believe Ground-Station-as-a-Service can provide a similar boost for space startups.

And this is just the beginning. We will continue to take the necessary steps to inject rocket fuel into the FCC's licensing process and protect America's orbital advantage for decades to come.

Thank you to Greg Coutros, Jeanine Poltronieri, Kerry Murray, Franco Hinojosa, Sankar Persaud, Stephen Duall, and Stephanie Neville for their great work on this item.