



OFFICE OF CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR

Chairman Carr Proposes to Accelerate the Buildout of Secure Submarine Cable Infrastructure

Rule Implements Goals of President Trump's AI Action Plan and America First Investment Policy Memorandum

WASHINGTON, June 3, 2026—Today, FCC Chairman Brendan Carr proposed new rules to unleash the deployment of submarine cable systems in the U.S. Responsible for up to 99% of global internet traffic, submarine cables play a vital role in ensuring resilient connectivity for consumer, commercial, and even military communications. The Report and Order shared today would presumptively exempt trusted cable operators from rigorous Team Telecom licensing review if the operators can certify to high security standards, providing certainty, predictability, and fast timelines to industry.

Chairman Carr issued the following statement:

“Submarine cables are some of the most consequential and critical communications infrastructure serving the United States. By ensuring that secure and trusted submarine cables get streamlined approval, we apply the Build America Agenda under the ocean.”

Additional Background Information:

Currently, all submarine cable applicants get referred to Team Telecom, an Executive Branch interagency task force that reviews license applicants for national security risks. Today's rule would presumptively exempt applications from Team Telecom review for trusted applicants that have operated cables without incident and can certify to the highest national security standards and agree to ongoing oversight and monitoring. This is in line with President Trump's AI Action Plan's goals to accelerate the deployment of AI infrastructure and the America First Investment Policy Memorandum's goals to “create an expedited ‘fast-track’ process’ to facilitate greater investment” from trusted sources.

In addition to streamlining deployment, the rules would also, for the first time, adopt a licensing requirement for owners and operators of submarine line terminal equipment (SLTE), which perform the most critical function of a submarine cable system by connecting to U.S. terrestrial facilities. This SLTE licensing requirement will ensure FCC oversight of one of the most vulnerable parts of the submarine cable networks. Finally, the rules would also adopt further routine security conditions.

These rules follow rules unanimously [adopted](#) by the Commission last August to unleash the buildout of secure submarine cable infrastructure, while bolstering national security requirements. The public draft of the proposed Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking will be available on Wednesday on the Open Meeting webpage at: <https://www.fcc.gov/June2026>.

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