

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY**

Re: *Review of Submarine Cable Landing License Rules and Procedures to Assess Evolving National Security, Law Enforcement, Foreign Policy, and Trade Policy Risks; Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules, Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, OI Docket No. 24-523, MD Docket No. 24-524, (June 25, 2026).*

The United States connects to the world through more than 90 submarine cable systems. These cables form a critical part of our communications infrastructure, carrying the vast majority of international internet traffic and supporting everything from communications and banking, to cloud computing, media distribution, artificial intelligence, and more. Any disruption or sabotage affecting these systems could have significant consequences for our economic and national security and U.S. technological leadership.

In my international engagements over the past year, submarine cables have been frequently cited as both a major area of investment and an emerging point of strategic vulnerability. And so, I welcome today's Report and Order for proactively recognizing that the security and resilience of our submarine cable ecosystem extend to the terrestrial facilities and equipment that connect these systems to our communications networks. By establishing a framework that addresses submarine line terminal equipment and related security considerations, we are taking a measured step toward ensuring that our regulatory approach reflects today's technological environment and threat landscape.

In addition to strengthening national security, this item appropriately streamlines the cable licensing process, improving regulatory efficiency for applicants. Security and deployment are not competing objectives. Indeed, the United States benefits economically and strategically when we can facilitate the rapid construction of trusted infrastructure while ensuring that appropriate safeguards are in place against evolving threats. The streamlined review mechanisms adopted here can help provide greater certainty to applicants, encourage investment, and reduce unnecessary delays, all while preserving rigorous review where circumstances warrant it.

Looking ahead, I welcome the Further Notice and look forward to reviewing additional input from stakeholders on whether routine conditions can further mitigate national security risks and improve oversight of SLTEs. Throughout this proceeding, we should remain attentive to both the costs and benefits of any new requirements and ensure that our rules promote innovation, competition, and resilience.

I thank the staff of the Office of International Affairs for their hard work on this item.