

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Enhancing National Security Through the Auction of AWS-3 Spectrum Licenses; et. al*, Report and Order and Second Report and Order, GN Docket Nos. 25-70, 25-71, 13-185 (July 24, 2025)

July 2025 is an important milestone in America's spectrum policy.

As part of the One Big Beautiful Bill, which President Trump signed into law on the 4th of July, Congress restored the FCC's spectrum auction authority. This ended a two-year period when that authority lapsed and America's spectrum spigot was shut off. Even more, the new law directs the Commission and NTIA to free up no less than 800 megahertz of spectrum, creating a robust pipeline for 5G and next-gen wireless services.

Two days before the bill became law, I announced that restoring America's leadership in wireless would be one of the central pillars of the Commission's new Build America Agenda. The spectrum provisions of the Big Beautiful Bill will give our agenda a big boost, because freeing up spectrum creates jobs, increases competition, and drives down prices for consumers. Basically—more spectrum means more building.

From my first day as Chairman, I made every effort to get more spectrum in the marketplace. At my very first open meeting as FCC Chairman, the initial item we considered was a proposal to kickstart the process for reauctioning a large number of licenses in the so-called AWS-3 bands (1695-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz, and 2155-2180 MHz). These are spectrum licenses that have been laying fallow for years.

With today's action, we move another step closer to that auction and getting these powerful bands into consumers' hands, where they belong. We do so by establishing the designated entity eligibility requirements for the auction. This item also creates a 15 percent bidding credit for qualifying rural service providers—an important step to closing the digital divide.

But restoring America's leadership in wireless is not the only objective of our Build America Agenda that an AWS-3 auction will advance. National security is another. That is because the proceeds from this auction will be used to complete the "rip and replace" program to protect our networks from untrustworthy and insecure foreign equipment.

For their work on this item, I'd like to thank Maureen Flood, Lyndsey Grunewald, Mike Gussow, Bill Huber, Madelaine Maior, Erik Salovaara, and Jeff Tignor.