STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY

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)

By updating the competitive bidding rules for auctioning the Commission's inventory of AWS-3 spectrum, we advance good policy on two important fronts, and check two long-standing items off of the FCC's to-do list.

First, we lay the groundwork to auction this valuable spectrum so it can be put to its highest and best use: improving service quality and delivering faster internet speeds for consumers. The licenses to be offered in a future auction will enhance coverage in diverse geographic areas and deliver a much-needed injection of spectrum for LTE and 5G deployment.

Second, we help enhance the security of our networks. Proceeds from the AWS-3 auction will help fund the Commission's Supply Chain Reimbursement Program, which supports the removal and replacement of untrusted equipment from companies like Huawei and ZTE. While we've made significant national progress in securing our networks, threats persist, as both Congress and the Commission have recognized. Fully funding "Rip and Replace" is essential to rooting out remaining vulnerabilities, safeguarding our communications infrastructure, driving economic growth, and preserving U.S. leadership in next-generation wireless technologies.

I thank the FCC staff for their work on today's item and for moving swiftly to bring the AWS-3 spectrum to auction. I also commend the President and Congress for their work to address the nation's spectrum shortage in the One Big Beautiful Bill, by restoring the FCC's general auction authority, building out a forward-looking spectrum pipeline, and recognizing that resilient, secure networks are fundamental to our economic and national security.