

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Resilient Networks; Amendments to Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications; New Part 4 of the Commission's Rules Concerning Disruptions to Communications*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order on Reconsideration, PS Docket Nos. 21-346 and 15-80; ET Docket No. 04-35.

Over the years, I've visited many communities in the aftermath of natural disasters. I joined then-Chairwoman Rosenworcel in Louisiana in 2021 not long after Hurricane Ida struck. That same year, I met with wildfire crews in California after the Dixie Fire. In 2018, I was in Florida after Hurricane Michael. A recurring theme of all of these visits is the vital importance of resilient connectivity so people can reach help during a crisis. Another was how important situational awareness of communications outages are to rescue and recovery efforts.

Since its inception in 2007, the Commission's Disaster Information Reporting System (DIRS) has proven to be a valuable tool for collecting actionable information on outages and service restoration. And while there is no debate that DIRS offers real benefits, it also imposes real costs. Once DIRS is activated, communications providers are required to complete as many as 10 different worksheets a day. Collecting and submitting this data can be time-consuming, possibly drawing away resources that might otherwise help with the response to an ongoing disaster.

Today's item allows us to explore streamlining measures that will ensure the benefits of DIRS are not being outweighed by the costs and burdens. We want to ensure consumers and public safety officials receive the information they need quickly, while minimizing the time spent by providers on reporting in the wake of a disaster. Restoration of vital services should always be the top priority, not paperwork.