

**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*, OI Docket No. 24-523, *Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules*, MD Docket No. 24-524 (August 7, 2025).

Today, subsea cables carry nearly 99 percent of all global internet traffic and are critical to the functioning of international voice, data, and internet services. These cables support everything from commerce and finance to streaming, intelligence gathering, and emergency communications. In fact, financial institutions report transmitting over \$10 trillion in transactions every single work-day via undersea cables.

As we look to the future, the importance of subsea infrastructure will only grow. Continued investment is needed to build new undersea cables and data storage facilities that can support cloud computing, 5G, artificial intelligence, and other bandwidth-intensive technologies.

But with their growing importance comes growing risk. Subsea cables are uniquely vulnerable to espionage, sabotage, and surveillance. Our global adversaries understand this. Chinese state-owned and private companies continue to invest aggressively in subsea cable infrastructure, while the Russian military has demonstrated advanced capabilities to map and monitor undersea cable routes. These trends cannot be ignored, which is why today's Order is so important.

The Order supports the growth of the undersea cable industry while reinforcing the security of U.S. investments and the vast amounts of data these cables carry. The Order also modernizes our submarine cable rules and establishes a clearer, more robust regulatory framework for application and licensing requirements.

Crucially, the Order includes measures to restrict cable landings in foreign adversary nations, promote transparency in cable landing station and Submarine Line Terminating Equipment (SLTE) operations, and it introduces new cybersecurity and physical security certification requirements.

Taken together, the reforms in this Order advance the Commission's broader effort to eliminate foreign adversary influence from our telecommunications networks and ensure that global communications infrastructure remains competitive, resilient, and secure.

I thank the Chairman and the Office of International Affairs for their hard work on this Order and the accompanying Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.