

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Connect America Fund; Alaska Connect Fund; et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 10-90, 23-328, 16-271, 14-58, and 09-197; WT Docket No. 10-208, Order on Reconsideration and Clarification, Waiver Order, and Order.

No part of the country is more remote and faces bigger connectivity challenges than Alaska. In my most recent visit to Alaska in 2022, I saw, first-hand, the challenge of bringing high-speed internet service to The Last Frontier. One of my stops was to the Matanuska Valley, north of Anchorage, where I met with people who were only able to access the Internet because of the FCC's Alaska Plan.

The Alaska Plan was established in 2016 to provide certain, long-term financial support to overcome the distinct challenges of connecting the hardest-to-serve parts of the State. In November 2024, the Commission extended this program through 2034 and re-named it the Alaska Connect Fund.

With today's action, we are fine-tuning the Alaska Connect Fund to ensure that it is more appropriately tailored to the topography and needs of Alaska. For example, this item further clarifies the program's deployment goals of 5G-NR at 35/3 Mbps. We are also ensuring that the obligations associated with the ACF are commensurate to the benefits provided and have eliminated a burdensome filing requirement that is unnecessary to measure compliance in the program.

Today's action also addresses marketplace changes that have occurred since the Alaska Plan was first adopted nearly a decade ago. In that vein, it grants targeted waivers of compliance measurement methodologies to more appropriately reward providers for their deployment accomplishments and incentivize them to continue improving and deploying service as they transition from the Alaska Plan to the ACF.

These actions will improve and further stabilize the FCC's long-standing commitment to supporting connectivity for Alaskans.