

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *2022 Quadrennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996*, MB Docket No. 22-459, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Sept. 30, 2025).

When I announced the FCC’s Build America Agenda, I emphasized the importance of the Gretzky Test—keeping our eye on where the proverbial puck is going, not where it has been. Nowhere is that more important than with our media regulations. So as we kick off this latest Quadrennial Review, the FCC must do so with an eye towards the future. After all, the old regulatory silos have been breaking down for quite some time, so the Commission must move forward with a keen understanding of today’s converged markets—and that’s exactly what we’re doing with today’s item.

In fact, it’s fair to say that the Gretzky Test is why Congress first required the FCC to conduct these Quadrennial Reviews back in 1996. They wanted us to consistently reassess market conditions to ensure our media ownership rules were keeping pace with the times. In recent years, numerous online audio and video streaming services have emerged, fundamentally changing how broadcast radio and television compete in the media marketplace. Our broadcast ownership rules should reflect these changes.

In fact, the FCC is required by law to review certain broadcast ownership rules every four years to determine whether the rules remain “necessary in the public interest as the result of competition,” which has traditionally meant advancing competition, localism, and viewpoint diversity.

The FCC has not always done so. Indeed, just this year the Eighth Circuit determined that the FCC acted arbitrarily and capriciously when it adopted the last Quadrennial Review order. In doing so, the court emphasized the deregulatory nature of the Quadrennial Review provisions that Congress added to the statute. Ultimately, the court vacated the FCC’s decision to retain the “top-four” rule, which prohibits a single entity from owning or controlling two of the top four television stations in a local market.¹

We are guided by the court’s decision here. And we intend to take a fresh approach to competition by examining the broader media marketplace, rather than treating broadcast radio and television as isolated markets. Our primary goal is to promote investment in local broadcasters who provide trusted news and information vital to the communities they serve. We will also consider whether public safety, national security, and other public interest goals should be part of this review process. If we determine that any rule no longer serves the public interest, we will fulfill our statutory duty to modify or eliminate those rules.

Thank you to all the staff who worked on this item. In particular, I’d like to thank Susan Aaron, Ty Bream, Chad Guo, David Konczal, Jin Lee, Lori Maarbjerg, Kim Makuch, Michael Richards, Jamie Saloom, Andrew Wise, and Irene Wu.

¹ *Zimmer Radio of Mid-Missouri, Inc. v. FCC*, No. 24-1380, 2025 WL 2056854, at *1, slip op. at 5 (8th Cir. July 23, 2025) (*Zimmer v. FCC*).