

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY**

Re: *Build America: Eliminating Barriers to Wireless Deployments*, WT Docket No. 25-276, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Sept. 30, 2025).

As the Commission examines whether state and local requirements may actually or effectively prohibit providers from offering wireline telecommunications service, it is equally important to consider the impact of these requirements on wireless services.

Americans are increasingly dependent on mobile devices and the networks that deliver high-speed internet access anytime and anywhere. This progress is due in no small part to substantial investments by wireless providers. A recent industry report highlights that over 15,000 new towers were activated in 2024, leading to expanded coverage and better quality mobile services.

In my travels to Alaska, and Mississippi, and in conversations with wireless carriers – large and small – I consistently hear the same concern: some of the biggest barriers to widespread deployment of mobile and fixed wireless networks are delays and restrictions caused by state and local requirements. The Commission made important strides to accelerate the deployment of 5G networks in 2018 and 2020, during President Trump’s first term. Yet our work continues. As I noted last month, the U.S. has made significant progress, but international comparisons show that we still lag behind global competitors like China, which has gained an advantage in part by aggressively streamlining its infrastructure siting policies.

For this reason, it is both necessary and timely to revisit the Ninth Circuit’s decision in *League of California Cities v. FCC* and seek comment on the Commission’s prior efforts to clarify the definition of “concealment elements” under the Spectrum Act’s streamlined processing rules. In parallel with our work on wireline networks, this NPRM recognizes that excessive fees and delays in wireless authorizations can effectively prohibit deployment, with serious consequences: consumers remain unconnected, public safety is diminished, and U.S. leadership in advanced communications is undermined.

Building on our efforts to accelerate small cell deployment, the NPRM also examines whether state and local permitting regulations are inhibiting other critical infrastructure, such as macro towers and additional wireless facilities, needed to bring the full benefits of 5G and beyond to suburban and rural communities.

In this item, I appreciate the Chairman’s inclusion of questions about the impact of state and local limits on densification. This inquiry will help inform how such limits may be slowing progress to 5G, 6G, artificial intelligence, and other future innovations.

And as I noted with respect to the wireline infrastructure NOI, I look forward to developing a robust record on the legal requirements of state and local permitting practices, as well as examples of effective approaches that successfully balance Congress’s goal of fostering wireless telecommunications services with state and local interests. This understanding will guide our continued efforts to promote high-speed infrastructure builds in support of the Build America Agenda and the New Golden Age of Communications.

I thank the Wireless Bureau for its work on this item and look forward to working with my colleagues, and with Congress, to unleash the full potential of wireless networks and strengthen America’s leadership in next-generation communications technologies.