

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Space Modernization for the 21st Century*, SB Docket No. 25-306, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Oct. 28, 2025).

Last year, I had the chance to visit The Gundo—an industrial neighborhood full of old warehouses that sits in Los Angeles County’s South Bay region, right next to LAX. It is now home to so many of America’s cutting-edge space and satellite entrepreneurs. But the truth is that manufacturing and productivity is nothing new for El Segundo.

The aerospace industry’s roots run deep in the area. In fact, the Space Race of the 1960s traces its course right through El Segundo. Back then, the region played a central role in the aerospace manufacturing and innovation that powered America’s Cold War leadership. It is where some of the largest and most important titans of the space industry set up shop. From Douglas Aircraft, Northrop, and Hughes Aircraft to the founding of the Aerospace Corporation, those businesses helped ensure that the U.S. won that Space Race.

Now, in many ways, past is prologue. Today, the United States sits at the dawn of a new Golden Age of space innovation. And President Trump has been clear that the U.S. will dominate once again. America’s leadership in space could not come at a better time. That is because we are now in the midst of what I refer to as a Space Race 2.0. And like the Space Race of 60 years ago, the U.S. is going to rely on the innovators like the ones all across El Segundo to help power America to the win.

I had the chance to visit The Gundo again a few weeks ago. When I did, I took a tour of Apex at their satellite manufacturing facility. Last year when I was there, the Apex warehouse was empty except for a lot of dust and a little bit of rust. This time a lot had changed. It was clean-room compliant and churning out satellite platforms.

It is emblematic of the fast pace changes we are seeing across the space economy. And it is why I chose the Apex production facility as the place to kick off “Space Month” at the FCC.

One of the core objectives of the FCC’s Build America Agenda is boosting America’s space economy. Our efforts on this front are driven by a few guiding principles: speed, simplicity, security, and satellite spectrum abundance. And thanks to the Space Bureau, we have made incredible progress on all those fronts already.

But we’re just getting started. And that’s where Space Month comes in. Now is the time for the FCC to add rocket fuel to those efforts. We are going big to make sure that the U.S. is the friendliest regulatory environment in the world for space innovators and entrepreneurs like Apex and so many other great American businesses.

Today’s Space Modernization item is the centerpiece of Space Month. We propose to overhaul the FCC’s licensing processes to match the scale and dynamism of today’s space economy. Through an ambitious set of rules designed from first principles, we propose to replace our legacy “Default to No” mindset with a “Default to Yes” framework built on permissionless innovation. We plan to do away with bespoke licensing processes in favor of a “licensing assembly line.” We intend to set out bright-line rules about the kinds of applications that serve the public interest, as well as simplifying applications, establishing clear timelines, and increasing flexibility for licensed operations.

For their herculean efforts on this item, I thank Gregory Coutros, Clay DeCell, Carolyn Mahoney, Stephanie Neville, Brandon Padgett, Sankar Persaud, Jeanine Poltronieri, and Jay Schwarz at the Space Bureau.