

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY**

Re: *Advancing IP Interconnection; Accelerating Network Modernization; Call Authentication Trust Anchor*, WC Docket Nos. 25-304, 25-208, 17-97, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (October 28, 2025).

Advancing the transition to IP-based networks is a vital step toward restoring U.S. leadership in next-generation communications technologies. We've already seen a significant shift toward IP in last mile networks. To complete this transition, we must also focus on how providers interconnect their networks, an area that remains anchored, in part, to outdated technologies.

Although interconnection has evolved alongside the broader IP transition, some providers continue to rely on legacy systems. Determining the right regulatory framework to finish this transition has proven challenging. The Commission first examined IP interconnection in depth in a 2011 proceeding that, more than a decade later, remains unresolved.

Now is the time for the FCC to act. This item complements our broader efforts to identify and remove regulatory barriers that impede network modernization. It seeks comment to obtain a full understanding of current marketplace realities and identify potential barriers to IP interconnection. Where outdated rules, rooted in past market conditions, unnecessarily tie providers to legacy technologies, eliminating those constraints subject to a well-considered transition will help accelerate the full migration to IP-based interconnection.

As the item acknowledges, the move to advanced communications networks can deliver significant benefits for consumers: improved reliability and resiliency, greater competition, new and innovative services, and stronger public safety capabilities. These outcomes represent the true goals of the IP transition and will remain my focus as we build the record in this proceeding.

I also appreciate the item's recognition that interconnection policy extends beyond technology. Providers need clarity not only on technical standards but also on the regulatory and market environment in which they operate. Such certainty is essential for continued network investment. I look forward to reviewing the Commission's future consideration of cost recovery and related policy issues.

I thank the Wireline Competition Bureau for its excellent work on this important item.