

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY**

Re: *In the Matter of Numbering Policies for Modern Communications et al.*, WC Docket Nos. 13-97, 07-243, 20-67, Third Report and Order and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Dec.18, 2025).

Many consumers rarely think about telephone numbers anymore. You save a number to your contacts and may never revisit it. And when an unfamiliar number pops up, many of us simply let it ring or let it go to voicemail.

But even in an age of apps and digital platforms, traditional telephone numbers still remain a fundamental part of how we stay connected, provided we have the right policies in place. We were reminded of this at our October meeting, when the Commission explored ways to restore consumer confidence by pairing telephone numbers with verified caller names. We see it again today as we strengthen the framework that governs which providers may obtain numbers and under what conditions.

Historically, interconnected VoIP providers lacked a clear, direct path to obtain the numbers necessary to provide service. In 2015, the Commission addressed that gap, establishing a process with safeguards to ensure that authorized VoIP providers were reliable and trustworthy.

At first, that system relied heavily on investigations by the Wireline Competition Bureau. Over time, however, the Commission identified issues better addressed up front in providers' applications, such as robocall compliance, foreign ownership, and other important public interest considerations.

In 2023, the Commission refined its procedures so that new VoIP numbering applicants would address these issues in their initial filings. Today's item takes the next logical step: ensuring that all VoIP providers with direct access to numbers – not just new applicants – make the same certifications and disclosures.

The Further Notice builds on that foundation. It seeks comment on how the Commission should respond when a VoIP provider with direct access to numbers falls short of its obligations, while ensuring the provider's customers aren't harmed. The Notice also asks how we can further protect against national security risks, for example, if VoIP providers with numbering access were operating unsecure equipment in their networks.

Today's item builds on a number allocation framework that has guided the industry for nearly a decade, advancing critical interests like robocall prevention and national security. I look forward to continuing the Commission's work to protect consumers through our numbering policies.

My thanks to the Wireline Competition Bureau for their excellent work on this item.