

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY**

Re: *Reforming Legacy Rules for an All-IP Future; Accelerating Network Modernization*, WC Docket Nos. 25-311, 25-208, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (February 18, 2026).

The transition to advanced communications networks promises significant benefits for consumers. Those benefits include enhanced service quality, greater innovation and competition, stronger public safety capabilities, and improved resiliency. These developments will help protect our communications infrastructure from threats ranging from coordinated attacks to copper theft.

Today's Notice builds on the IP Interconnection NPRM the Commission issued in October. Taken together, these proceedings position the FCC to address several key aspects of IP interconnection – from the governing policy framework, to technological solutions, to elements of the cost recovery framework in an all IP environment. Clear guidance in these areas through coordinated action in those and other proceedings will be essential to sustain continued network investment throughout the IP transition.

I'm pleased to see this item build on lessons learned from prior reforms. The Commission's adoption of bill-and-keep for many forms of intercarrier compensation provides important context for the proposals here. Likewise, the FCC's substantial deregulation of the domestic long-distance market suggests it is appropriate to consider whether any remaining requirements should be eliminated and whether similar deregulation should extend to international long distance.

Another important lesson learned from past reforms is the value of industry collaboration. While FCC staff bring deep expertise, industry participants are often best positioned to understand the operational and competitive realities on the ground. The Commission has previously relied on stakeholder proposals when shaping intercarrier compensation and universal service reforms, and this item wisely seeks that input again.

In particular, in all our proceedings addressing the IP transition, I welcome industry proposals that help the Commission thoughtfully implement reforms needed to facilitate technological and marketplace evolution while fully accounting for our universal service responsibilities. Where the Commission relies on networks to meet our universal service goals, we must ensure that the move to advanced networks does not inadvertently undermine connectivity or affordability.

Advancing the transition to IP-based networks is a vital step toward restoring U.S. leadership in next-generation communications technologies. By working together, we can ensure this transition is both smooth and timely.

I thank the Wireline Competition Bureau and the Office of International Affairs for their hard work on this item.