

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Establishing the Digital Opportunity Data Collection; Modernizing the FCC Form 477 Data Program; In re: Delete, Delete, Delete*, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WC Docket Nos. 19-195, 11-10; GN Docket No. 25-133 (May 20, 2026).

Earlier this week, the FCC released an updated version of the National Broadband Map. This is version 8.0. This new map highlights the significant progress that providers have continued to make in expanding high-speed Internet access across the country. More Americans than ever have access to faster and more reliable broadband service, particularly in rural communities that for too long were left behind.

Notably, the map shows that more than 96 percent or 112 million locations have access to a terrestrial fixed service of at least 100/20 Mbps and, in 2025 alone, more than 2 million locations gained access to such services. Today, only 4.4 million locations lack such access, representing a 64.2 percent decrease from the inaugural June 2022 map. On the mobile side, 96.8 percent of locations have access to mobile 5G services of at least 7/1 Mbps. And none of this counts the many new connections that are now powered by next-gen satellite services.

At the same time, we know there is more work to do. That is why today's item focuses not just on improving the quality of the data reflected in the map, but also on improving the process itself. Specifically, we are taking commonsense steps to streamline the Broadband Data Collection process, reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens, and make the challenge and verification processes easier for stakeholders to participate in. These steps will help to ensure that the FCC's map continues to improve.

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