

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY

Re: *Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain through the Equipment Authorization Program*, Third Report and Order and Third Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 21-232 (July 22, 2026).

Last month, my staff and I visited the Office of Engineering and Technology's Laboratory Division in Columbia, Maryland. There, the Commission's expert engineers evaluate radio frequency devices and related technologies to assess interference risks and verify compliance with our technical rules.¹ The work performed at the lab is rigorous, highly technical, and essential to the interworking's of the communications ecosystem. It also helps ensure that the devices American's rely on every day are safe, reliable, and worthy of the public's trust. That mission requires constant vigilance and close collaboration among government, industry, and independent testing bodies. Today's item reflects that important responsibility.

Manufacturers that bring products such as drones, networking equipment, and security devices to the U.S. market rely on complex global supply chains to source hundreds of components that go into a single device. While these supply chains have fueled innovation and lowered costs, they can also create opportunities for hardware manufactured by foreign adversaries to enter products sold in the United States. In some cases, a single compromised component can introduce vulnerabilities that undermine the security of an otherwise compliant device.

Today's rulemaking closes that security gap by ensuring that hardware produced by entities on the Covered List cannot be incorporated into devices authorized for sale in the U.S. through our equipment authorization process. By closing these loopholes, we strengthen the integrity of our supply chains, better protect our communications networks, and enhance our national security.

I appreciate that this item also improves transparency throughout the equipment authorization process and clarifies our rules to make them more predictable for manufacturers, testing laboratories, and certification bodies.

Finally, I welcome the Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which seeks comment on additional ways to improve supply chain transparency, strengthen enforcement of the equipment authorization program, and ensure that our rules maintain flexibility to address both emerging technologies and evolving national security risks. As communications technologies advance, our policies must keep pace to ensure the continued trustworthiness and resilience of our networks.

I thank the staff of the Office of Engineering and Technology for their hard work on this item.

¹ [Laboratory Division | Federal Communications Commission](#).