

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY**

Re: *Inquiry Concerning Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion*, GN Docket No. 25-223, 2026 Section 706 Report (Aug. 14, 2026).

We've all heard the saying: "It's a marathon, not a sprint." In other words, we must avoid becoming so fixated on the short term that we risk our ability to achieve long-term goals.

When it comes to universal broadband connectivity, I believe it is both a marathon and a sprint. Broadband is essential to modern life and we can't allow Americans to linger unconnected. At the same time, the nation requires networks with the ability to meet both present and future needs, particularly when it comes to the performance, reliability, and resiliency demanded by artificial intelligence and other emerging technologies.

When section 706 was originally enacted in 1996, broadband was in its infancy. Today, the marketplace is more advanced and policymaking is more complex.

While the section 706 review once was the centerpiece of the FCC's broadband analysis, today Congress has situated it as one part of a broader marketplace inquiry in section 13 of the Act. And the broadband mapping information required by the Broadband DATA Act, along with the Broadband Funding Map established pursuant to the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, play a direct role in policymaking without being filtered through the lens of the section 706 inquiry. Our section 706 report still has a part to play, but we must be mindful of its limited scope in the Commission's broader data-driven efforts.

As I've focused on broadband deployment over the course of our section 706 proceeding, what is my key take-away? When it comes to advancing both our short-term needs and longer-term goals, the Commission is not running this race alone.

President Trump and leaders in Congress reinstated the Commission's spectrum auction authority helping the FCC restore U.S. leadership in advanced communications technology. And the President has set America on a path for leadership in AI.

Under Chairman Carr's leadership, the Build America Agenda is working to reduce the cost and timing of broadband deployment, speed FCC licensing and approval processes, and ensure our universal service programs target funds where they are needed and work in harmony with broadband funding from our partner federal agencies. And a bipartisan, bicameral working group in Congress is considering how to modernize universal service to be successful into the future.

On recent trips to Nebraska, New Mexico, and North Dakota I met with military, state, and local leaders and public safety stakeholders, and rural and Tribal broadband providers who are working together to expand connectivity in their communities.

And finally, I want to highlight the hard-working FCC staff who prepare the analyses that inform our policymaking, who develop new regulatory approaches that can enable the FCC to meet the broadband challenges before us, and who are working every day to implement those policies.

In light of these considerations, I support this latest Section 706 Report and its conclusion that broadband is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion, along with the FCC's data-driven policymaking across many different proceedings. I thank the Wireline Competition Bureau, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the Office of Economics and Analytics, and the Space Bureau for their

excellent work on this item. And I thank all the Commission staff working to help us achieve universal connectivity.