

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER OLIVIA TRUSTY**

Re: *Review of the Commission's Rules Governing the 896–901/935–940 MHz Band*, Report and Order, WT Docket 24-99 (February 18, 2026).

Traveling across the country over the past eight months, I have seen firsthand the many ways in which spectrum policy is profoundly shaping the American economy, and, in turn, the daily lives of American consumers. That impact extends to less visible but critically important sectors, including energy.

Over the past year, policymakers have focused on unleashing domestic production to ensure affordable, reliable energy for American families and businesses. Realizing the full promise of energy independence, however, requires an electric grid that delivers power safely, securely, and reliably. Today's item helps bring utility operations into the digital age by updating the regulatory framework in the 900 MHz band. This will enable more intensive broadband use by utilities and other critical infrastructure providers.

This action builds on modernization efforts that began during the first Trump Administration, which permitted broadband deployment in 3 by 3 megahertz segments through a voluntary, market-driven exchange process. Today, we take the next step by making the full ten megahertz available for broadband deployment.

This progress is significant. The 900 MHz band provides vital spectrum access for utilities, critical infrastructure, and other business enterprises that have begun deploying private LTE and 5G networks over the past six years. These private broadband networks can enable smart metering, grid modernization, enhanced security and resilience, and more precise delivery of essential electric, gas, and water services to Americans.

The record in this proceeding makes clear that utilities and critical infrastructure providers need additional spectrum and broadband access – to expand current upgrades, harness emerging technologies, and support future applications.

Importantly, this Report and Order allows the market to determine the highest and best use of the 900 MHz band. Recognizing that narrowband operations remain essential for some users, the item relies on voluntary negotiations and market-based transactions to enable broadband deployment on a county-by-county basis. I expect these negotiations to proceed in good faith so that incumbents are made whole when relocating and the substantial benefits of broadband can be realized by prospective licensees.

I thank the Wireless Bureau for its thoughtful work on this important item.