

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Enhancing National Security Through the Auction of AWS-3 Spectrum Licenses*, GN Docket No. 25-70; *Applying New Average Annual Gross Revenue Benchmarks for Small Business Bidding Credits*, GN Docket No. 25-71; *Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Commercial Operations in the 1695-1710 MHz, 1755-1780 MHz, and 2155-2180 MHz Bands*, GN Docket No. 13-185, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (February 27, 2025).

It is time for the FCC to get back to auctioning spectrum. It is time that we free up airwaves for 5G and other next-gen services. Of course, conducting auctions at the FCC has been a bit of a challenge in recent years because the FCC's general spectrum auction authority lapsed back in 2023.

But late last year, Congress came together and on a bipartisan basis authorized the FCC to auction our inventory of AWS-3 spectrum. This was a good step forward, and I want to commend Chairwoman Rosenworcel and her leadership team for moving quickly to prepare a document that allows the FCC to conduct this auction.

With the legwork that has been done, the Commission is able to cast votes today that will kickstart the process of bringing previously fallow AWS-3 spectrum into consumers' hands—or at least their smartphones and devices. This decision will help boost the capacity of our country's wireless networks at a time when demand on those networks is only increasing.

Today's action is also essential to promoting our national security. This is because the proceeds from this auction will be used to top off the Commission's Rip and Replace program—the FCC initiative that funds the removal of insecure Huawei and ZTE gear from our networks. Failing to close that funding gap would have left America's networks needlessly exposed to security risks. That is why a strong, bipartisan, and bicameral coalition led by Senator Steve Daines got together to finally get this important legislation across the finish line.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the FCC staff who worked on this item, especially Erik Salovaara and Lyndsey Grunewald from the Office of Economics and Analytics, Doug Klein and Bill Huber from the Office of General Counsel, Madelaine Maior from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and Jamie Saloom from the Office of Communications Business Opportunities.