

Responses to Questions for the Record

Chairman Brendan Carr

Testimony before the Subcommittee on Communications and Technology

Wednesday, January 14, 2026

“Oversight of the Federal Communications Commission.”

## Attachment —Additional Questions for the Record

### The Honorable Rick Allen

1. I understand the Commission is currently looking at alternatives for PNT systems that could be used to provide redundancy, something I support. Could you tell us what the current timeline is for that petition and whether you are also taking into account any potential negative impacts these alternatives could have on existing technologies that also utilize wireless spectrum?

**Answer:** As you referenced, the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry in March 2025 to start building the record to understand what alternatives are out there and weigh the various pros and cons, as well as anticipate any of the consequences. Each of the various GPS alternatives will require different levels of coordination with unique groups of stakeholders. The NOI has given potentially impacted parties the opportunity to weigh in on how to work together to mitigate unintended consequences.

2. Existing licensed and unlicensed users in the Lower 900 MHz band (902-928 MHz) argue that NextNav's proposed high-power 5G-based PNT system would cause unacceptable interference. What specific, independent technical analysis has the FCC conducted to verify NextNav's claims that its high-power 5G-based PNT system will not cause harmful interference to incumbent users, particularly critical infrastructure and Part 15 devices (particularly in the logistics, retail and security space)?

**Answer:** Commenters from all sides of the issue have submitted various technical studies in the record. The FCC will continue to review the record in this proceeding. No final decisions have been made.

3. I am committed to finding policy solutions to eliminate the scourge of robocalls and robotexts on consumers, which at the least are annoying but at their worst ripe for fraud and deception. As Congress looks at every angle of this issue, the Commission's efforts in examining transitioning to all-IP networks, if implemented correctly, may assist in this endeavor. I encourage the Commission to take into consideration delays caused by ILECs' resistance to an all-IP transition due to current practices of requiring IP-capable competitors to interconnect through outdated TDM tandem facilities (and charging anti-competitive or unreasonable amounts in TDM interconnection fees in the process), contributing to uncompetitive market-place practices, and unnecessary reliance on outdated technology, which ultimately affect consumers and allow the incessant issue of robocalls to persist. Will you commit to holding ILECs accountable for any uncompetitive practices identified on this issue and specifically review the ways all-IP carriers are forced to engage with ILECs on the issue?

**Answer:** The issue the FCC hears about the most through consumer complaints is illegal robocalls. This is why combating robocalls is a top consumer protection priority for me as Chairman. We have started a new campaign to tackle illegal robocalls at every point in the call path. As part of this approach, we have taken action to strengthen caller ID

authentication, to increase enforcement of our rules to make sure every provider doing business in the U.S. takes proactive steps to mitigate robocalls, and we have been exploring ways to hold providers accountable when they serve as gateways for illegal traffic. And we are not slowing down.

You are right that the Commission's work on accelerating the IP transition intersects with these efforts. Legacy TDM infrastructure was not built with today's authentication and analytics tools in mind. By contrast, IP-based networks enable more robust deployment of STIR/SHAKEN authentication, better call analytics, and faster traceback. Modernizing our rules to facilitate an efficient IP transition can therefore strengthen our robocall enforcement framework.

If outdated interconnection practices are forcing IP-capable carriers to route traffic through legacy TDM tandem facilities, the FCC will examine this carefully. And we will facilitate greater lines of communication between ILECs and all-IP carriers as we continue our work to advance the transition.

### **The Honorable Robert E. Latta**

1. Will you work to incorporate policies successfully utilized in previous auctions which promote equitable access to spectrum, including through reasonable aggregation policies, appropriate reserve prices, sufficiently small license sizes, appropriate power levels, bidding credits, and other tools which may benefit rural areas?

**Answer:** The FCC seeks comment ahead of each auction to ensure that its spectrum policies promote the public interest, including benefiting the many rural parts of the country.

2. The FCC has made great strides in modernizing outdated rules to speed up deployment. Unfortunately, legacy FCC systems like the Universal Licensing System and Antenna Structure Registration program are still reliant on outdated servers and software with significant downtimes, making it difficult for industry to file and modify important information necessary for deployment. What is the overall timeline for the Commission to update and modernize ULS/ASR and do you need anything from Congress to complete the update?

**Answer:** The FCC is actively working to modernize our online databases. This effort includes replacing outdated infrastructure and improving reliability.

### **The Honorable H. Morgan Griffith**

1. It is my understanding that the Commission is examining state and local permitting practices and that some broadband providers have been denied permission to deploy internet infrastructure because of either express, or *de facto*, state and local *moratoria* on construction. I know the Commission previously found that *moratoria* violate Section 253 of

the Communications Act. What can the Commission do to counter overbearing state and local barriers that the Commission determines are unlawful?

**Answer:** The FCC currently has rulemakings underway exploring more ways to prevent overbearing state and local barriers from harming deployment. These barriers slow down and, in some cases, stop deployment of infrastructure that has major benefits for the surrounding communities.

2. What existing authorities does the Commission already possess to prevent program producers from shutting out so-called “independent programmers” on cable television?

**Answer:** Section 616 of the Act (47 USC § 536) and the program carriage rules that the Commission adopted to implement section 616 (47 CFR §§ 76.1300-1302) are existing authorities that the Commission has to prevent cable television providers and other multichannel video programming distributors from discriminating against independent programmers.

- a. Are those authorities being exercised by the Commission or are they largely dormant?

**Answer:** The Commission exercises this authority when warranted. Under the Communications Act, an independent programmer must show that the multichannel video programming distributor treated the independent programmer differently than the multichannel video programming distributor treated an affiliated programmer.

3. What can be done to improve market access for independent cable television program producers?

**Answer:** Large mainstream media conglomerates and technology companies have too much market power. The FCC needs to hold the mainstream media conglomerates holding broadcast licenses accountable by making sure that their stations operate in the public interest as required by the Communications Act.

4. The Federal Communications Commission is considering changes to the sharing framework designed to protect geostationary orbit satellites (GSOs) from interference from non-geostationary orbit satellites (NGSOs). Some GSO owners are concerned that this sharing framework could cause harmful interference for the subscribers who rely on them. This could mean that satellite television subscribers would experience significantly increased incidences of picture interruption and distortion as they attempt to watch programming. How is the Commission ensuring that satellite television subscribers are protected?

**Answer:** The FCC will continue to review the record on this issue to ensure the right outcome, including for satellite television subscribers.

**The Honorable Gus Bilirakis**

1. In light of the growing and diverse marketplace, what opportunities/risks are there for local independent media companies? And are there any actions that the FCC can take to foster these local voices?

**Answer:** One of my major initiatives at the Commission is to empower local broadcasters by promoting local news, local reporting, and local journalism. I am doing this by holding broadcasters accountable to their public interest obligations to meet the needs of their communities of license; re-examining the relationship between the national networks and the local television stations; unleashing new voices over the airwaves through our licensing process; and removing outdated broadcast regulations. I believe these efforts will promote local news in communities across the country.

### **The Honorable Russ Fulcher**

1. I want to discuss the importance of wireless deployment in rural, unserved, and under-served areas such as the area I represent. What can we do to ensure that these communities have access to mobile broadband?

**Answer:** Restoring spectrum auction authority in the Working Families Tax Cut Act was an important and substantive step in getting mobile broadband out to rural, unserved, and under-served areas. The FCC now has several workstreams under way to auction new spectrum bands that can be put to use across the country. And the FCC is facilitating secondary market transactions that can do the same thing. The Commission under my leadership is also working to enable providers to offer more robust direct-to-cell service from satellites, which would boost mobile broadband in these areas.

2. Commissioner Carr, you have talked about having a “Federal Lands Desk” to help land management agencies better coordinate to ensure rural broadband can utilize funds more efficiently and quickly. What are you hearing when it comes to this still being a concern? Would you, or any of the commissioners, work with my office on some ways we can help the land management agencies better coordinate?

**Answer:** Permitting on federal lands continues to be an issue that slows down infrastructure builds. The FCC has a number of efforts underway to help accelerate infrastructure builds. And I also support bills like Rep. Carter’s American Broadband Deployment Act that aims to achieve this same outcome.

### **The Honorable August Pfluger**

1. As the FCC begins to implement the One Big Beautiful Bill Act, it is critical that we continue to double down on the successes of the first Trump administration, such as the unlicensed use of the full 6 GHz band, while also demonstrating clear leadership and vision for 5G and 6G bands. You were one of the earliest and strongest champions of opening the 6 GHz band to unlicensed Wi-Fi use, helping “supercharge” next-generation connectivity. Thanks in part to your leadership- now with plans to further advance new unlicensed uses with your upcoming

Order and Further Notice later this month - the U.S. now has the full 6 GHz band available for Wi-Fi, and this uniquely American innovation leads China and the world. The Administration deserves credit for pushing our 6 GHz framework internationally and signaling that America should not go backwards on this band. As we head toward WRC-27, there's a real risk that China will seek to influence international decisions that could fragment 6 GHz and undermine the global Wi-Fi ecosystem. As the Commission prepares for WRC-27, what steps are you taking to support the official U.S. position supporting unlicensed use of the full 6 GHz band on a global basis while also supporting access to new spectrum for 6G?

**Answer:** In January 2026, the FCC unanimously approved an Order to enhance unlicensed use in the 6 GHz band. Specifically, the FCC voted to create a new category of unlicensed devices— Geofenced variable power (GVP) —that can operate outdoors and at higher power than previously authorized devices. GVP devices promise to overcome technical and regulatory constraints of other low power devices such as low power indoor (LPI) and very low power (VLP) devices. GVP devices offer data rates suitable for reality/virtual reality, short-range hotspots, automation processes, and indoor location and navigation because they operate at significantly higher power than VLP devices. At the same time, GVP devices need not be restricted indoors, as is the case with LPI. These benefits will be made possible by restricting GVP devices from operating in exclusion zones on certain frequencies to protect incumbent licensed services from any significant risk of harmful interference. In addition to the proposed Order creating a new category of GVP devices, the Commission will seek comment on proposals that could provide more utility for unlicensed devices in the 6 GHz band. Specifically, the FCC would seek comment on a proposal to allow composite standard-power and LPI access points to operate with additional power under certain circumstances, and a proposal to permit LPI access points to operate on cruise ships.

2. As you know, I am committed to ensuring the safety and security of America's communications networks. I am pleased to have joined so many of my colleagues to ensure full funding for the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program, commonly known as Rip and Replace. The successful completion of this Program will mean the complete removal, destruction, and replacement of equipment deemed a risk to national security. In some instances, where affected program participants may have experienced delays outside of their control via local, state, federal, or Tribal siting and permitting delays, weather restrictions, or complications, full access to funds allocated, supply chain equipment, or labor delays, extensions may be required. Will the FCC commit to providing necessary extensions to program participants affected by such delays, as allowed by the statute, to ensure they can successfully complete the Program?

**Answer:** When the Wireline Competition Bureau approved applications to participate in the Rip and Replace Program in 2022, demand exceeded available funding, which resulted in a significant funding shortfall. Between 2022 and 2024, recipients indicated that the funding shortfall was a significant impediment to their ability to timely complete their removal, replacement, and disposal projects. Congress authorized additional funding at the end of 2024. In May 2025, the Bureau issued an initial disbursement of the additional funds and gave recipients in Priority 1 until May 2026 to complete their projects. When allocating the

additional funding, the Bureau encouraged recipients to move swiftly to complete their work under the Rip and Replace Program.

3. Efficient spectrum use and innovation are top U.S. priorities. New technologies are being introduced at much lower power levels that can coexist efficiently with other technologies, even in spectrum bands used for important federal functions. One example is Ultra-Wideband (UWB), which has been authorized for years and has a demonstrated track record of causing no harmful interference to sensitive federal systems. UWB is used for important everyday functions, such as unlocking car doors remotely, tracking luggage, and tracking lost pets. Many of those technologies operate in the spectrum used for critical government operations and cause no interference. A recent petition for rulemaking asks the Commission to reexamine its UWB rules to reflect how the technology has evolved and how it is being deployed today. Given UWB's long history of successful coexistence with federal users, the FCC has the opportunity to modernize its rules for these important technologies while continuing to protect critical government operations. When can we expect FCC action to ensure this continued innovation?

**Answer:** On December 18, 2025, a coalition of automotive and unlicensed wireless companies filed a petition for rulemaking requesting that the FCC initiate an expedited proceeding to amend certain portions of the FCC's part 15 rules to allow for more flexible ultra-wideband (UWB) device operations. Four days later, on December 22, 2025, the FCC's Office of Engineering and Technology sought public comment on the petition and opened a new docket. Comments were due on January 30, 2026 and reply comments will be due on February 27, 2026. Once the comment cycle closes, the FCC will evaluate the record to determine next steps.

### **The Honorable Kat Cammack**

1. Chairman Carr now that the FCC has received the CPNI case back from the 6th Circuit, when do you plan to issue an order rescinding the rules? Rescinding these rules soon is very important given how badly that Order misapplies the statute and eviscerates the CRA.

**Answer:** The Commission is carefully reviewing the 6th Circuit's decision. And we are evaluating potential next steps.

2. Chairman Carr, I think we all share the goal of strengthening our nation's position, navigation, and timing capabilities and reducing reliance on a single system. That's why there's broad interest in identifying complementary or alternative PNT solutions, and why the Department of Transportation is currently examining multiple options. At the same time, stakeholders have raised questions about one proposal that would operate in the Lower 900 MHz Band, particularly regarding potential impacts on the many unlicensed devices already operating there, including systems used for public safety and critical infrastructure. The FCC's docket reflects input from a wide range of industries and technical experts on whether a full-power 5G system can coexist with existing uses of that band. Can you walk us through how the FCC is evaluating those concerns as it considers this proposal alongside other viable

PNT alternatives, and how the Commission is ensuring existing services are protected as part of that process?

**Answer:** As you reference, the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry in March 2025 to start building the record to understand what alternatives are out there and weigh the various pros and cons, as well as anticipate any of the consequences. The NOI has given potentially impacted parties the opportunity to weigh in on how to work together to mitigate unintended consequences. The FCC has made no final decisions in this proceeding.

### **The Honorable Erin Houchin**

1. My Data BRIDGE Act (H.R. 4950) directs the FCC to incorporate USDA cultivated land data into the National Broadband Map so rural coverage reflects entire farms and fields—not just a farmhouse address. Would integrating this data materially improve the map’s accuracy for rural coverage and precision agriculture use cases? If so, in what specific ways? How critical are accurate, parcel-level broadband maps to ensuring rural and agricultural communities actually receive the broadband access and funding Congress intends?

**Answer:** Understanding where broadband is currently available and where federal funding has already been committed to expand access is critically important to ensuring that funding dollars reach communities that still lack high-speed internet services, including rural and agricultural communities. Precision agriculture relies on a combination of both fixed and mobile broadband access to ensure its effective implementation. Currently the FCC’s Broadband Data Collection collects both mobile broadband coverage data as well as location-specific fixed (wireline, wireless, and satellite) services.

Mobile providers are required to submit propagation maps and model details based on specified mobile parameters to the FCC twice per year. Fixed providers are required to report availability for broadband serviceable locations, homes and small businesses, where they have an existing customer, previously had a customer, or can provide service within 10 business days for a standard installation fee.

The FCC makes both mobile and location-specific fixed availability data public on the National Broadband Map. For mobile coverage, the map allows users to zoom-in and view expected mobile coverage over a parcel, farm, or field. The map interface also allows users to view expected coverage both in a hexagonal overlay and as a raw coverage layer. This granular view of expected 4G and 5G mobile service availability provides farmers, ranchers, and other agricultural business operators the ability to assess the current availability of mobile broadband services across their entire parcel and other areas where they rely on access to mobile broadband. The data is also available for download so users can incorporate the relevant data into the systems they use to administer their precision agriculture tools. FCC staff would be happy to provide a demo of this functionality.

2. As you expressed during the hearing, it’s important that the FCC continues to move forward in looking at a range of alternatives and complements to GPS that are available for our deployment. I am aware that the FCC is considering technologies that can provide a

terrestrial complement and backup to GPS. Knowing the urgency to address the issue of GPS resiliency, can you provide a status of where FCC action stands? Are there any barriers to prompt action by the FCC?

**Answer:** As you reference, the FCC issued a Notice of Inquiry in March 2025 to start building the record to understand what alternatives are out there and weigh the various pros and cons, as well as anticipate any of the consequences. Each of the various GPS alternatives will require different levels of coordination with unique groups of stakeholders. The NOI has given potentially impacted parties the opportunity to weigh in on how to work together to mitigate unintended consequences.

3. It's imperative to have the most accurate understanding of where there is and is not broadband service if we are to fully connect rural America. Current FCC mechanisms for measuring mobile coverage continue to fall short and is not as verified as the fiber fabric. Mobile service measurements are affected by topography and terrain which complicate efforts to ascertain exactly what is, or is not, served. Incorrect data affects everything from federal funding for future deployments to real-time emergency services capabilities. It is critical that the federal government requires mobile service be measured using mobile metrics, not simply by stationary points which do not reflect consumer experience or actual service. Currently, the FCC permits stationary points to qualify under mobile metrics, continuing the frustrating cycle of incorrect and incomplete federal broadband data. Will you commit to the FCC requiring and using established mobile data metrics and measurements for federal programs that support mobile deployment?

**Answer:** As part of the FCC's Broadband Data Collection providers of mobile broadband services are required to submit both in-vehicle (including driving speeds) and outdoor stationary (including walking speeds) coverage maps and model details based on specified mobile parameters twice per year to the FCC.

Specifically, providers must model 3G, 4G LTE, and 5G-NR at the following speeds:

- 3G: 200/50 kbps
- 4G LTE: 5/1 Mbps
- 5G-NR: Providers must model both:
- 7/1 Mbps; and
- 35/3 Mbps

Each of these speed tiers must assume a minimum cell edge coverage probability of 90 percent and a cell loading of at least 50 percent. Providers are expected to account for topography and terrain, as well as other local factors that may impact availability, in their modeling. Providers maps must also incorporate a "heat map," depicting ranges of signal strength for both their outdoor stationary and in vehicle mobile.

The FCC will continue to collect and verify the mobile broadband availability under the above specified mobile data metrics and consistent with the Broadband Data Act.

Consistent with the Act, the FCC also conducts verifications and audits of provider reported mobile coverage data. Both third party data and independent analysis of provider submitted data have informed FCC verifications and audits. In one recent example, Commission staff identified a large increase in reported coverage across a number of states by a national mobile provider. Staff met with the provider to discuss the changes including any changes to their approach to modeling their availability. Following those conversations the Commission initiated a verification that resulted in the provider providing on the ground speed test data that validated the accuracy of their newly reported coverage. In other instances, FCC initiated verifications and audits have resulted in provider reported coverage being removed from the map.

4. As you know at a time when demands on spectrum are increasing across the economy, the FCC has a responsibility to ensure that available spectrum is being used efficiently and in the public interest. The U.S. financial sector leads the world in innovation and technology, and to maintain that role, our nation must encourage investment in the latest communications technologies, including radio spectrum. The result of these technological enhancements can benefit Main Street investors by lowering costs and increasing efficiencies. What is the status for the Commission to adopt a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to allow parties to make use of the shortwave spectrum band (2-25 MHz) band for fixed, long-distance, non-voice communications?

**Answer:** We are engaging with stakeholders on many bands, including this one.

### **The Honorable Tom Kean, Jr.**

1. In 2024, the FCC unanimously approved an order creating a nationwide framework for the 4.9 GHz Band. This band, which has been set aside for public safety for over two decades, has historically seen an absence of coordination among public safety agencies, which is in part what initiating the process to select a band manager was intended to address. Can you share an update on how this process is going? When will a band manager be selected?

**Answer:** The order is currently facing multiple legal challenges in the US Court of Appeals for the DC Circuit by several litigants. The FCC continues to work on the relevant issues.

2. The Working Families Tax Cut reinstated the FCC's spectrum auction authority, which is extended for nearly ten years. Can you discuss the viability of this ten-year timeline to get this new, full-power spectrum to market? What is the FCC doing to move quickly to meet growing 5G demand and 6G standardization efforts?

**Answer:** The Working Families Tax Cut Act requires the FCC to auction at least 100 megahertz of spectrum in the Upper C-band by July 2027 and at least 300-megahertz total by 2034. The FCC has been working hard to implement those provisions in coordination with other federal agencies and stakeholders.

In November 2025, the FCC voted on a proposal to auction up to 180 megahertz of spectrum in the Upper C-band—exceeding the 100 megahertz minimum set by Congress. A lot of work remains ahead for all of the federal agencies and that work is proceeding apace.

Outside of the auctions process, the FCC is working to ensure that competitors can light up otherwise dormant spectrum through secondary market transactions. On this score, AT&T recently agreed to purchase 50 megahertz of spectrum. And SpaceX has agreed to acquire 60 megahertz more. If approved, the latter transaction could advance America’s position as the world-leader in next-generation, direct-to-cell technology. These secondary market moves are already showing results. Indeed, just recently, one carrier announced that they built out spectrum they gained access to in 2025 to over 23,000 cell sites in record time—boosting 5G speeds by up to 80 percent.

### **The Honorable Craig Goldman**

1. Chairman Carr, thank you for your strong leadership in combating illegal robocalls and for elevating this issue as a core consumer-protection and priority at the FCC. As part of your efforts, I would like to raise a troubling and growing trend: foreign-owned providers acquiring U.S. entities in ways that allow them to appear domestic, while continuing to facilitate large volumes of illegal robocalls. The consequences for consumers are not hypothetical — they are measurable, ongoing, and severe. One of the most striking examples appears in a December 3, 2025 letter from the North Carolina Department of Justice, submitted on behalf of the 51-member Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force. The letter states: “The Anti-Robocall Multistate Litigation Task Force’s ongoing investigation of Inteliquent, Inc. has shown that Inteliquent has transmitted — and continues to transmit — calls associated with high-volume illegal and/or suspicious robocall campaigns on behalf of one or more of its customers.” Inteliquent is owned by Sinch, a foreign company.

The Task Force further found that, of the estimated 3.1 billion Social Security Administration and IRS government-imposter robocalls targeting Americans during the sampled period, approximately 1.425 billion — nearly half — were facilitated by Inteliquent.

The pattern extends beyond government-imposter scams. Between January 2023 and November 2024, roughly 40% of all Industry Traceback Group tracebacks tied to financial-services and order-imposter robocalls were facilitated by Inteliquent. In December 2024 alone, that figure was 38.9%.

Mr. Chairman, these are not isolated lapses or edge cases — this appears to be a business model. in which a foreign-owned company profits by enabling fraud that harms American consumers.

These abuses affect millions of families, seniors, and small businesses. And when foreign-owned providers are responsible for this volume of illegal traffic, it raises precisely the kind of national-security and network-integrity concerns that you have rightly emphasized.

So my question is this: As part of your ongoing leadership on robocall enforcement, will you commit to conducting a comprehensive review or investigations of whether foreign-owned

companies — including U.S.-based entities they control — are abusing their access to U.S. communications networks? And will you commit to evaluating whether entities engaged in this conduct should be permitted to continue operating in the United States?

**Answer:** Yes, we are currently looking at various ways to combat foreign robocalls, including by giving consumers accurate caller ID information, so they do not have to guess if a call comes from overseas or not.

### **The Honorable Doris Matsui (D-CA)**

1. We continue to see large volumes of robocalls and fraudulent activity originating from outside the United States. Many of these calls use U.S. communications networks and SIM farms to reach American consumers. What steps is the FCC taking to prevent foreign-originated fraud and scams from reaching US consumers?

**Answer:** Yes, we are currently looking at various ways to combat foreign robocalls, including by giving consumers accurate caller ID information so they do not have to guess if a call comes from overseas or not.

- a. Are there specific limitations that prevent the FCC from doing more in this area?

**Answer:** The FCC is continuing to review the record regarding these proposals and will examine whether additional legislation would aid in the agency's efforts.

- b. If so, can the FCC explain these constraints?

**Answer:** The FCC is continuing to review the record regarding these proposals and will examine whether additional legislation would aid in the agency's efforts.

2. The Commission recently removed a large number of voice service providers from the Robocall Mitigation Database. Since this purge, has the FCC observed a measurable decrease in fraudulent robocalls targeting American consumers?

**Answer:** Yes.

- a. If so, can you quantify the results? If not, what further enforcement actions does the FCC plan to take to achieve meaningful results for American consumers?

**Answer:** According to YouMail Robocall Index, in July 2025, the month before the FCC removed nearly 1,500 providers from the Robocall Mitigation Database, Americans received an estimated 4.3 billion robocalls. In January 2026, Americans received 3.8 billion.

3. Some international gateway providers continue to transmit high volumes of illegal foreign-originated traffic onto US networks, often with inadequate know your customer (KYC) practices. What steps is the FCC taking to identify providers that repeatedly allow

this type of traffic into the US, and what enforcement measures are being used to hold these providers accountable? What limitations prevent the FCC from imposing foreign ownership limits on international gateway providers?

**Answer:** The FCC should continue to enhance and strengthen its KYC regulations. The FCC is looking at a number of ideas for cracking down on illegal robocalls from abroad.

4. Given that all-IP networks enable more effective use of tools like STIR/SHAKEN and caller ID authentication, both of which are critical in identifying and blocking foreign-originated fraud and scams, what additional actions can the FCC take to accelerate the transition to all-IP networks and ensure these protections are implemented quickly and at scale across all providers?

**Answer:** The FCC is pursuing a number of steps to accelerate the transition to all IP networks, including through our actions on copper retirement.

5. The U.S. commercial space industry is growing and one of several sectors playing a role in broadband deployment. How important is the commercial space industry to U.S. leadership in space and what does that mean for the people in my district?

**Answer:** As I have said, we are engaged in a Space Race 2.0 right now. This Space Race looks different from the first time around. Today, we are not just relying on the nation's largest government contractors alone. Instead, we are relying on businesses of all sizes and hundreds of new and scrappy startups. The commercial space industry will allow new technologies like direct-to-cell and others that will meaningfully improve your constituents' lives.

6. How does the FCC plan to support U.S. space and satellite priorities – including for LEO constellations in which the U.S. leads the world – at the ITU and the World Radiocommunication Conference over the next two years, particularly in light of increasing Chinese influence and competition to develop space?

**Answer:** America is the world leader in space. But China is rapidly catching up, as multiple reports show. Under my leadership, the FCC's policy is laser focused on maintaining America's space dominance. We want to be the best place in the world to license constellations. That is why we are modernizing our SB licensing and looking to release 20,000+ megahertz of satellite broadband spectrum.

To prevail at WRC-27, the FCC commits to speak with one voice alongside the USG and advance the interests of U.S. industry.

- a. What are the benefits of U.S. leadership at the ITU and WRC as they set global spectrum rules and satellite orbits?

**Answer:** We are able to ensure a level playing field and deny rules that are set by foreign adversaries who have their sights set on dominating up and down every orbit.

7. The Upper C-Band (3.98–4.2 GHz) is vital for satellite distribution of broadcast media relied on by millions of Americans. Congress directed the Commission to auction at least 100 megahertz of this spectrum for wireless broadband use, and the Commission has proposed auctioning as much as 180 megahertz. I support a balanced, all-of-the-above spectrum strategy that ensures spectrum is put to its highest and best use, but I'm concerned that the costs for broadcasters who are forced to migrate to an acceptable alternative to C-Band could be very high. Will the Commission commit to reimbursing all reasonable costs for incumbents to achieve equivalent service on other platforms—including equipment changes, upgrades, retrofits, development of new delivery systems, site diversity, and weather mitigation?

**Answer:** The FCC is working to ameliorate potential pain points associated with the statutorily required Upper-C Band auction. The agency has an open proceeding underway and has made no final decisions.

8. The FCC is currently considering an open proceeding on SIP Interconnection. IP interconnection is key to modernizing our telecommunications networks and realizing some of the innovations which will improve consumer experience, enhance public safety via Next Generation 911, and aid in combating robocalls and robotext. As the FCC considers this proceeding, how is the FCC working to ensure a seamless transition, and how do you plan to support these network enhancements?

**Answer:** The FCC is working to facilitate a successful transition to all-IP interconnection for voice services while enhancing public safety, consumer protection, and competition.

9. The FCC is reviewing the Nexstar-Tegna merger, which would concentrate enormous control over what millions of Americans watch, creating a media giant reaching 80 percent of U.S. households. A Nexstar-Tegna conglomerate also would control two (or three) of the top local television stations in major media markets such as Sacramento, St. Louis, Denver, Scranton, Des Moines, and Knoxville.<sup>1</sup> In a 2023 joint statement with then-Commissioner Nathan Simington, you said, “The FCC owes America’s entrepreneurs, its innovators, and the everyday people they serve a regulatory process that is fair, transparent, and evenly applied.”<sup>2</sup> Do you stand by this statement?

**Answer:** Yes.

10. In 2023, you criticized the FCC for not taking an up-or-down vote on the Standard General - Tegna merger, instead leaving the matter to the Media Bureau to act on. Will

---

<sup>1</sup> See Letter from Sen. Warren et al to FCC Chair Brendan Carr (Dec. 15, 2025) (citing local news sources).

<sup>2</sup> John Hendel, *FCC’s in-house court waiting a month to see if Tegna deal collapses*, Politico (April 27, 2023).

you apply that same approach here and support an up or down vote on the Nexstar-Tegna merger?

**Answer:** I support the agency moving forward with approving the Nexstar – Tegna transaction.

11. You have said that the FCC is “looking at lots of ways to really empower those local broadcast TV stations to actually identify” and serve “the needs of their local communities.”<sup>3</sup> Do you stand by that statement?

**Answer:** Yes.

12. When you speak of looking at ways to empower local stations to identify and serve the needs of their local communities, does this include empowering local stations in communities where residents disagree with President Trump?

**Answer:** My statement includes local stations in every community.

- a. Are you ensuring that local stations are serving the needs of their local communities regardless of those local communities’ political viewpoints?

**Answer:** My statement includes local stations in every community.

13. You have also warned against local news stations becoming “100% a mouthpiece for a national programmer.”<sup>4</sup> Do you stand by that statement?

**Answer:** In the hearing, I warned that, “We’re losing that balance between the national programmers and the actual local TV stations. In some cases, they’re becoming just a mouthpiece for programing being produced by those national programs.”

14. Is it appropriate for local news stations to become the mouthpiece of a national media company?

**Answer:** Broadcasters should meet the needs of their local communities.

15. Is it appropriate for local news stations to become a mouthpiece for any politician?

**Answer:** Broadcasters should meet the needs of their local communities.

16. What enforceable commitments are you seeking to ensure that a Nexstar-Tegna merger will not result in local communities having less access to locally owned media that understands and reflects their own communities?

---

<sup>3</sup> Dade Hayes, *FCC Chairman Brendan Carr Rips Some Local TV Stations As “Mouthpieces” For National Networks*, Deadline (Jan. 8, 2026).

<sup>4</sup> *Id.*

**Answer:** The FCC is reviewing this transaction.

17. In the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2004, Congress strengthened the current, statutory 39 percent national audience reach cap by removing this cap from the quadrennial review process and prohibiting the Commission from using its forbearance authority on the national cap. Bipartisan voices have raised concerns that a Nexstar-Tegna merger not only would violate this cap but would further “end localism in smaller media markets in favor of national talking points” and “limit competition, increase costs, and narrow the range of viewpoints available to the public.”<sup>5</sup> And last November, President Trump expressed opposition to repealing or raising this 39% national ownership cap.<sup>6</sup> Do you agree with President Trump that removing the 39 percent cap would be a bad idea?

**Answer:** President Trump has stated that we need more competition to the fake news national TV networks. I agree with President Trump.

18. During your tenure as FCC Chairman, how many investigations has the FCC opened or reopened because of the content of a news program or network?

**Answer:** Any ongoing FCC investigations are based on the relevant portions of the Communications Act as well as FCC rules and precedent.

- a. Please list each investigation, the entities investigated, the date the investigation was launched, and the reason for launching the investigation. For each investigation, list any parties that filed complaints with the FCC alleging a rule violation or requesting an investigation.

**Answer:** The FCC’s open investigations remain pending.

- b. What is the status of each of these investigations?

**Answer:** The FCC’s open investigations remain pending.

- c. How many staff and staff hours have been devoted to each of these investigations?

**Answer:** The FCC’s open investigations remain pending.

---

<sup>5</sup> See, e.g., Letter from Congresswoman Elise Stefanik to FCC Chairman Brendan Carr (Dec. 12, 2025); *Newsmax Files With FCC to Oppose Lifting TV Cap*, NewsMax (July 23, 2025); Letter from Sen. Warren et al to FCC Chair Brendan Carr (Dec. 15, 2025).

<sup>6</sup> Lucas Manfredi, *Trump Opposes Raising or Eliminating FCC’s Broadcast TV Station Ownership Cap*, The Wrap (Nov. 24, 2025), <https://www.thewrap.com/trump-opposition-raising-eliminating-fcc-broadcast-tv-station-ownership-cap/>.

- d. When is the last time you updated each of the other FCC commissioners on the status of these investigations?

**Answer:** I meet regularly with my Commission colleagues, and we discuss a range of FCC matters.

- e. What communications have occurred between you and the current White House, other Trump Administration officials, or other individuals acting on behalf of the White House that relate to these investigations of media entities?

**Answer:** Consistent with longstanding practice, I do not discuss conversations *vel non* with the President.

- f. What are you doing to protect journalist-source confidentiality when conducting these investigations?

**Answer:** The FCC investigations are consistent with statutory authority and within bounds of appropriate laws and rules.

19. According to the FCC Consumer Guide on Broadcast News Distortion, news distortion requires clear evidence that the broadcaster “*deliberately* distorted a factual news report.” News distortion “must involve a significant event and not merely a minor or incidental aspect of the news report.” The distortion must be initiated by the management of the station. And news distortion does not apply when a broadcaster is exercising ordinary editorial judgment, nor does it apply where there is only “mere inaccuracy or difference of opinion.”<sup>7</sup> In each of these investigations under your tenure as Chairman, including the reopened investigations into ABC, NBC, and CBS,<sup>8</sup> what evidence does the FCC have of any deliberate, intentional falsification of a significant event by the broadcaster?

**Answer:** The FCC’s open investigations remain pending.

20. You directed the FCC to open an investigation into the local radio station KCBS 740 AM in San Francisco after the station covered publicly available information about the January 26, 2025 ICE raid in East San Jose. After the launch of this investigation, KCBS demoted the anchor and dialed back on political programming for months.<sup>9</sup> At the January 14, 2026 oversight hearing, you said you believed the FCC received complaints or heard concerns about this specific radio station. Who did the FCC receive complaints or hear concerns from?

---

<sup>7</sup> FCC Consumer Guide, Broadcast News Distortion, <https://www.fcc.gov/sites/default/files/broadcast-news-distortion.pdf> (last reviewed July 18, 2024).

<sup>8</sup> Liam Scott, *FCC launches media investigations, reinstates complaints*, Voice of America News, <https://www.voanews.com/a/us-communications-agency-reinstates-complaints-starts-investigating-media/7964421.html>.

<sup>9</sup> Byron Tau, *How an AM radio station in California weathered the Trump administration’s assault on media*, The Associated Press (Dec. 15, 2025), <https://www.ap.org/news-highlights/spotlights/2025/how-an-am-radio-station-in-california-weathered-the-trump-administrations-assault-on-media/>,

**Answer:** There is no update to provide on this matter.

21. In its January 26, 2025 broadcast, KCBS-AM reported that immigration agents were in East San Jose, driving unmarked vehicles include a black Dodge Durango, a gray Nissan Maxima and white Nissan truck. Was KCBS reporting on publicly available information about ICE?

**Answer:** There is no update to provide on this matter.

22. During the January 14, 2026 oversight hearing, I asked, “When you talk about the public interest, does the public include Americans who disagree with the President?” In response, you said, “Yes, the public includes people who disagree with the President.” I also asked you, “Does the public interest include informing the public about what their government, including ICE, is doing in their local community?” You responded, “The core ingredient of the public interest standard is to identify the needs of your local community and make sure you’re meeting that.” When you talk about the public interest standard, does the public include American citizens and legal residents who want information to avoid wrongful detention by ICE?

**Answer:** The public interest includes identifying the needs of local communities.

23. The FCC approved the Paramount-Skydance merger almost immediately after President Trump received a settlement check in his private litigation over how 60 Minutes edited its interview with Kamala Harris. In your August 12, 2025 reply to Senator Blumenthal’s concerns about the conditions surrounding the Paramount merger, you justified the inclusion of an ombudsman by saying, “An ombudsman mechanism is not a new concept for the FCC when it comes to transactions.”<sup>10</sup> On August 7, 2025, you said you would be in a “trust but verify” posture when examining perceived bias at CBS.<sup>11</sup> Have you spoken with the ombudsman?

**Answer:** Despite some social media posts to the contrary, the ombudsman does not report to me or the President of the United States.

- a. Do you expect to receive information about how the ombudsman handles specific matters?

**Answer:** As noted above, the ombudsman does not report to me or the President of the United States.

---

<sup>10</sup> Letter from FCC Chairman Brendan Carr to Sen. Richard Blumenthal (Aug. 12, 2025), <https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-414089A2.pdf>.

<sup>11</sup> Dan Novak, *FCC to Monitor CBS News Bias After Merger Approval, Agency Chair Says*, National Law Journal (Aug. 7, 2025), <https://www.law.com/nationallawjournal/2025/08/07/fcc-to-monitor-cbs-news-bias-after-merger-approval-agency-chair-says/?slreturn=20260127180728>.

24. Well before you approved the merger immediately after the settlement check came in, there were news reports in multiple outlets, including the New York Post and Wall Street Journal, that Paramount higher-ups believed settling with Trump would help get regulators to approve the merger.<sup>12</sup> They even reportedly had concerns that the settlement could be seen as a bribe if you approved the merger in short order afterward,<sup>13</sup> which is exactly what you did. Is it appropriate for the FCC to create the impression among media executives that they have to pay to play to avoid regulatory retaliation?

**Answer:** Your allegation is not correct.

25. President Trump claimed there was a secret side deal with Paramount’s new ownership to air pro-Trump Public Service Announcements.<sup>14</sup> Would “secret side deals” be in the public interest?

**Answer:** Your question appears to be trying to make an allegation about litigation that did not involve the FCC. The Commission made its decision in the transaction before the FCC based on the facts, the law, and the record before the agency.

26. President Trump’s amended complaint in his lawsuit against CBS claimed that Truth Social’s parent company Trump Media & Technology Group Corp, of which he is a major shareholder, is a competitor of CBS.<sup>15</sup> Is it in the public interest for you to carry out President Trump’s agenda to damage competitors of his company?

**Answer:** Your question appears to be trying to make an allegation about litigation that did not involve the FCC. The Commission made its decision in the transaction before the FCC based on the facts, the law, and the record before the agency.

27. Last year, the Supreme Court wrote that it had “many times held, in many contexts, that it is no job for government to decide what counts as the right balance of private expression—to ‘un-bias’ what it thinks biased, rather than to leave such judgments to

---

<sup>12</sup> Ariel Zilber, *Paramount, Trump agree to appoint mediator to settle \$20B lawsuit over “60 Minutes” Kamala Harris interview*, New York Post (Feb. 25, 2025) (“Paramount executives reportedly believe that reaching a resolution with Trump could reduce the risk of regulatory interference with the Skydance merger.”);

<sup>13</sup> Jessica Toonkel, *Paramount Executives Ask: Could They Be Sued for Settling Trump’s \$20 Billion CBS Lawsuit?*, Wall Street Journal (Feb. 14, 2025), <https://www.wsj.com/business/media/paramount-executives-ask-could-they-be-sued-for-settling-trumps-20-billion-cbs-lawsuit-228604a2?msocid=1d52273e97976f8916ae339f96d86e8e>.

<sup>14</sup> Todd Spangler, *Trump Claims ‘60 Minutes’ Settlement Is Worth as Much as \$35 Million Including ‘Advertising’; Paramount Denies Deal Includes PSAs*, Variety (July 4, 2025), <https://variety.com/2025/tv/news/trump-60-minutes-lawsuit-settlement-advertising-35-million-paramount-psa-1236447353/>.

<sup>15</sup> Chris Perez, *‘Unfair competition’: Trump now wants \$20 billion from CBS over Kamala Harris ‘60 Minutes’ interview as he amends lawsuit to add new claims and a co-plaintiff*, MSN (Feb. 9, 2025), <https://www.msn.com/en-us/news/politics/unfair-competition-trump-now-wants-20-billion-from-cbs-over-kamala-harris-60-minutes-interview-as-he-amends-lawsuit-to-add-new-claims-and-a-co-plaintiff/ar-AA1yHHg0>.

speakers and their audiences.”<sup>16</sup> “However imperfect the private marketplace of ideas,” the Court also wrote, “a worse proposal” would be “the government itself deciding when speech was imbalanced, and then coercing speakers to provide more of some views or less of others.”<sup>17</sup> Is it the FCC’s job to “un-bias” what it thinks biased or unbalanced? If so, describe the FCC’s specific job here. Over what type of content does the FCC have a job in “un-biasing”? And what specific authority is given to the FCC to “un-bias”?

**Answer:** The Communications Act directs the FCC to ensure broadcasters comply with their public interest obligations.

28. At the December 2025 Open Commission Meeting press conference, you stated that “A core component of the public interest standard is to identify the needs of the local community, the community that a broadcaster is licensed to. There’s an issues and programs list that they’re supposed to put in their public inspection file. And the question is whether they have identified the needs of the local community and whether through the programming they’re meeting those needs. We’ve other specific rules as well. Broadcast hoax is codified on regulation that spells out exactly what a broadcast hoax is. We have a news distortion policy, again that’s been developed through FCC case law. We have political equal opportunity regulations. So I do think the public interest standard has been fleshed out by the agency for 50 or 60 years.”<sup>18</sup> Do you stand by this statement?

**Answer:** The public interest standard has been fleshed out by the agency for decades.

29. When you say, “a core component of the public interest standard is to identify the needs of the local community, the community that a broadcaster is licensed to,” does this include local communities where residents disagree with President Trump? Does the public interest standard mean that local stations should be serving the needs of their local communities regardless of those local communities’ political viewpoints?

**Answer:** Broadcasters must serve the needs of each of their communities, which each have unique features.

30. Specifically describe your interpretation of the “public interest standard” and the FCC’s plan and authority to enforce your interpretation of such standard. You have stated the public interest standard has been fleshed out for 50 or 60 years. Specifically describe the applicable case law interpreting this public interest standard. For each case law, explain how it applies to each investigation the FCC has opened or reopened, under your tenure as FCC chairman, against a broadcaster using the public interest standard as the basis for the investigation. How do the facts of each prior case law resemble or differ from these current investigations?

---

<sup>16</sup> *Moody v. NetChoice, LLC*, 603 U.S. 707, 719 (2024).

<sup>17</sup> *Id.* at 733.

<sup>18</sup> Brendan Carr, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, Press Conference at the December 2025 Open Commission Meeting (Dec. 2025), (video at 36:40–38:00).

**Answer:** The core ingredient of the public interest standard is to identify the needs of your local community and that the FCC has provided substantial guidance to broadcasters over many years.

- a. Specifically describe the FCC precedent and any other documents related to your interpretation of the FCC’s authority over national broadcast networks.

**Answer:** The public interest has been defined over many years through agency precedent and case law.

- b. For each precedent or document cited, explain how it applies to each investigation the FCC has opened or reopened, under your tenure as FCC chairman, against a broadcaster using the public interest standard as the basis for the investigation.

**Answer:** The public interest has been defined over many years through agency precedent and case law.

- c. How do the facts resemble or differ from these current investigations?

**Answer:** The FCC investigations are consistent with statutory authority and within bounds of appropriate laws and rules.

31. In January, the FCC Media Bureau released a Public Notice stating that broadcast stations would be subject to the equal time rule where the *bona fide* news exemptions do not apply, including with respect to late night and daytime talk shows. The Public Notice did not change the criteria for determining if a program is exempt but—instead of relying on the good faith judgment of the broadcaster on whether a program is exempt based on FCC precedent—states that “the exemptions are limited to the program that was the subject of the request.” The Notice also suggests there is a risk the FCC will disagree with the broadcaster’s determination unless the broadcaster files for and receives a ruling from the FCC that a specific program is exempt.<sup>19</sup> This Notice is placing the FCC in a position of making subjective judgments over whether programming decisions are being made for partisan purposes or whether the program simply reflects views that some political parties do not like. In making these assessments, the FCC cannot exceed the limit of its authority under Section 326 of the Communications Act, which makes clear that the FCC does not have the “power of censorship” over any broadcast station, nor can its actions “interfere with the right of free speech” by the broadcaster. This Public Notice seems to share parallels with the Fairness Doctrine, where the FCC policed whether major broadcasting outlets spent equal time covering both sides of controversial issues of national importance. Supporters of this Notice have claimed it is an “important step” to “the end of left-wing bias on the part of networks”<sup>20</sup> and “means Hollywood hosts and

---

<sup>19</sup> FCC’s Media Bureau Provide Guidance on Political Equal Opportunities Requirement for Broadcast Television Stations, Public Notice, DA 26-68 (rel. Jan. 21, 2026).

<sup>20</sup> Sean Moran, *Exclusive- ‘Left-Wing Bias’ on Television Takes Another Hit: FCC Issues Guidance on Political Equal Opportunities for Broadcast Stations*, Breitbart (Jan. 21, 2026), <https://www.breitbart.com/the->

network executives can no longer feature Democrat candidates while shutting out Republicans.”<sup>21</sup> Are you advocating for the FCC to reinstate the fairness doctrine?

**Answer:** The FCC guidance document addressed the statutory equal opportunities requirement and the bona fide news exemptions, not the fairness doctrine.

32. The equal-time rule applies to the political candidate only. Do you agree that the equal-time rule does not apply to the political candidate’s spokesperson?

**Answer:** The Communications Act as well as the FCC’s rules and cases lay out the contours of the equal time requirements.

- a. And that the equal-time rule does not apply to the political candidate’s supporters?

**Answer:** The Communications Act as well as the FCC’s rules and cases lay out the contours of the equal time requirements.

33. Do you agree that the FCC may only consider or act on complaints under the equal time rule when those complaints are filed by political candidates who have been denied equal time by a broadcaster?

**Answer:** The Communications Act as well as the FCC’s rules and cases lay out the contours of the equal time requirements.

34. Do you agree that outside groups do not have standing to bring complaints against broadcasters for equal time rule violations?

**Answer:** The Communications Act as well as the FCC’s rules and cases lay out the contours of the equal time requirements.

35. Does this new approach mean you will be ensuring these rules are properly followed by radio stations too, including talk radio and other stations that traditionally carry one-sided, right-wing political programming? Should these radio stations also file for a declaratory ruling from the FCC?

**Answer:** The Communications Act as well as the FCC’s rules and cases lay out the contours of the equal time requirements.

**The Honorable Nanette D. Barragán (D-CA):**

---

[media/2026/01/21/exclusive-end-of-left-wing-bias-on-network-tv-fcc-issues-guidance-on-political-equal-opportunities-for-broadcast-stations/](https://www.fcc.gov/media/2026/01/21/exclusive-end-of-left-wing-bias-on-network-tv-fcc-issues-guidance-on-political-equal-opportunities-for-broadcast-stations/).

<sup>21</sup> Daniel Suhr, X post (Jan. 21, 2026 at 10:52 AM ET), <https://x.com/danielsuhr/status/2014003249607533037>; Daniel Suhr, X post (Jan. 21, 2026 at 11:53 AM ET), <https://x.com/danielsuhr/status/2014018551640707228>.

1. During the hearing, Chairman Carr, you asserted that wireless plan prices were down 4.1% between December 2024 and December 2025 and that smartphone prices were down 9.8% during that same period. Please describe and provide any analysis the Commission has undertaken since December 2024 to assess the impact of these and other wireless service pricing trends on consumers eligible for Lifeline support.

**Answer:** This information is available at the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics website. Every 2 years, the Commission publishes the Communications Marketplace Report that assesses the state of competition across the communications sector.

- a. Also, describe and provide any analysis the Commission has undertaken since December 2024 to assess whether the Lifeline support amount of \$9.25 monthly represents a level of support sufficient to ensure that Lifeline eligible households, including those that are unbanked and underbanked, can afford to purchase monthly access to widely available, entry level wireless broadband plans.

**Answer:** The Commission recently adopted an item to protect the integrity of the USF program and make sure that eligible consumers have access to Lifeline subsidies while ensuring that hardworking Americans aren't paying to subsidize dead people in the program.

2. According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics' January 13, 2026, Consumer Price Index, prices for internet services and electronic information providers increased 2.8 percent from 2024 to 2025. When adjusted for inflation, the average price for home internet plans grew by 4.8 percent over that period. Please describe and provide any analysis the Commission has undertaken since December 2024 to assess the real-world impact of rising home broadband prices on Lifeline-eligible households, including their ability to maintain fixed internet service.

**Answer:** Following record inflation from Biden-era policies, the FCC on my watch is working to bring prices down for consumers. We are doing so through a variety of actions, from bringing more spectrum on line to permitting reform, to helping providers introduce new and competitive offerings. That work is already showing results, as speeds are up and prices are down, as I have noted.

The upcoming report will include broad analysis of issues you asked about.

- a. Specifically, please describe any analysis the Commission has undertaken to determine whether these households are being forced to downgrade service, rely solely on mobile connections, or forgo home broadband altogether as prices increase.

**Answer:** The FCC conducts a range of different analyses. For instance, every 2 years, the Commission publishes the Communications Marketplace Report that assesses the state of competition across the communications sector.

- b. In addition, please describe what steps, if any, the Commission has taken since December 2024 to monitor how the Lifeline subsidy is used, encourage providers to offer low-cost broadband plans that align with the \$9.25 support, and adjust program rules to reduce barriers for eligible households within the current statutory subsidy amount.

**Answer:** The FCC recently adopted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that seeks comment on and tees up reforms to the FCC’s Lifeline program.

3. Chairman Carr, the FCC has already begun the process of making the upper C-Band spectrum available to commercial wireless carriers via auction. However, in order to maximize the amount of Upper C-Band spectrum repurposed for 5G/6G wireless use, it seems likely that incumbent users, such as those delivering video programming, will need to relocate to other bands like the Ku- and Ka-bands and/or transition to alternative distribution technologies like fiber, which can take time. Do you commit to ensuring that eligible incumbent licensees are able to orderly relocate to other bands able to deliver substantially the same level of service, will be reimbursed for relocation expenses, and that they will have sufficient time to transition from the Upper C-band?

**Answer:** The FCC is actively working on the Upper-C Band proceeding.

4. Chairman Carr, while Nexstar has told investors it achieves economies of scale by consolidating overlapping station operations and technical infrastructure — changes that typically involve workforce reductions — the 117-page Nexstar/Tegna application contains no meaningful workforce impact analysis, no market-by-market staffing disclosures, and no commitments to preserve local newsroom operations. Since its Tribune acquisition in 2019, Nexstar has carried out repeated layoffs, including at the local station level, raising serious concerns about newsroom hollowing-out and reduced local service. At the same time, under your leadership, the Commission has continued to invoke its public interest authority to scrutinize broadcaster conduct, including issues affecting service to local communities. Given this, and because journalists and broadcast technicians are integral to providing service to local communities, what will you do to ensure that Nexstar/Tegna and other pending broadcast transactions preserve critical local market jobs, including journalists and broadcast technicians?

**Answer:** Any FCC decision on a particular transaction will ensure that the outcome promotes the public interest.

**The Honorable Troy A. Carter (D-LA):**

1. Rural broadband providers have invested hundreds of millions of private capital in CBRS-specific equipment and network deployment based on the current framework of the CBRS band, providing services to hundreds of thousands of Americans. Can you commit that the FCC will not pursue changes to the current CBRS operations that may threaten the services being delivered and to ensure the stability necessary for continued investment?

**Answer:** The FCC should always act mindful of incumbent operations.

2. A significant number of awardees under the BEAD program would like to incorporate CBRS, particularly General Authorized Access, into their network plans. Chairman Carr - are you considering any changes to the existing CBRS regime that could cause BEAD recipients to need to change their plans?

**Answer:** The FCC should always act mindful of incumbent operations.

3. Spectrum sharing, like in the CBRS band, has proven to be a valuable tool for balancing government and private sector needs, particularly for rural broadband providers. As you plan your upcoming spectrum auctions as required in the OBBB, are you considering the greater utilization of spectrum sharing technologies to help the government accomplish those goals?

**Answer:** The FCC has been pursuing an all of the above approach to spectrum policy.

**The Honorable Greg Landsman (D-OH):**

1. Bearing in mind that we should not mimic China's authoritarian, communist approach, what are one or two priorities we should focus on for WRC27 and how can Congress help the FCC, the rest of the federal government, and the private sector address these priorities in Shanghai next year?

**Answer:** The FCC should ensure that we have adequate spectrum for the next-generation of LEO satellite systems and flexibility to support new D2C services.

2. Is the FCC able to effectively coordinate with the other important agencies in this process – State and Commerce?

**Answer:** Yes, and we are indeed doing so.