

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *In the Matter of Lingo Telecom, LLC*, File No.: EB-TCD-24-00036425, Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture (May 23, 2024)

Last year in Nigeria, a clip manipulated with Artificial Intelligence spread far and wide. It showed a presidential candidate scheming to rig ballots. In Slovakia, people across the country heard a manipulated audio clip of an opposition candidate supporting both election fraud and an effort to raise the price of beer.

But there is no need to travel to far-off lands to see how AI can sow confusion. Because this year in the United States a fraudulent campaign targeted voters in New Hampshire. It used AI-generated voice cloning to mimic an unauthorized message from President Biden, two days before the primary election in the state. This is unnerving. Because when a caller sounds like a politician you know, a celebrity you like, or a family member who is familiar, any one of us could be tricked into believing something that is not true with calls using AI technology. It is exactly how the bad actors behind these junk calls with manipulated voices want you react.

So when we saw this happen here, on our shores, we acted fast. The Federal Communications Commission issued a Declaratory Ruling that made clear that “artificial or prerecorded voice” robocalls using AI voice cloning technology violate the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. We partnered in this effort with State Attorneys General, including the New Hampshire Attorney General, who is one of 49 State Attorneys General who have signed on to a Memorandum of Understanding to work with this agency on junk robocalls. This ruling matters. Because it gives our state colleagues the right to go after bad actors behind these calls and seek damages under the law. Then we worked with carriers to trace those responsible for this calling campaign. When we found the carrier behind it, we immediately sent a cease and desist letter and notified all other carriers to go ahead and stop carrying this traffic.

Today, we tie up our investigation into these New Hampshire calls with two separate actions.

First, we hold Steve Kramer responsible for the scam calls he set up to defraud voters using call spoofing technology that violates the Truth in Caller ID Act. This fine is \$6,000,000.

Second, we hold Lingo Telecom, the carrier that put these scam calls on the line, responsible for failing to follow our call authentication policies. This fine is \$2,000,000.

But this is only a start. Because we know AI technologies that make it cheap and easy to flood our networks with fake stuff are being used in so many ways here and abroad. It is especially chilling to see them used in elections. That is why yesterday I shared with my colleagues a proposal to require election advertisements in the United States to simply disclose if they use AI technology. I think as these tools become more accessible, every one of us has a right to know.

Back to the enforcement actions before us. They are the result of fast work and valuable partnerships. A special thank you goes to New Hampshire Attorney General John Formella and his staff for assistance with this investigation.

I also want to thank the agency staff for their work, including Loyaan Egal, Jermaine Haynes, Peter Hyun, Balki Labbor, Ryan McDonald, Rakesh Patel, Raul Rojo, Daniel Stepanicich, Kristi Thompson, and Jane van Benten from the Enforcement Bureau; Erik Beith, Elizabeth Drogula, Jonathan Lechter, and Zachary Ross from the Wireline Competition Bureau; Jerusha Burnett and Kristi Thornton from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau; Richard Mallen, Erika Olsen, Joel Rabinowitz, and Derek Yeo from the Office of General Counsel; and Ed Cureg and Kenneth Lynch from the Office of Economics and Analytics.