DISSENTING STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR

Re: Communications Marketplace Report, GN Docket No. 24-119

In 2018, Congress tasked the FCC with preparing a biennial Communications Marketplace Report that assesses the state of competition across the communications sector. As I have indicated in my statements on the last two Reports, I have been concerned that the agency's approach misses the mark.¹ For instance, instead of providing an accurate assessment of the converged market for communications services, the Commission continues to use a decades-old approach that looks at each broadband technology—including mobile, fixed, and satellite—as services that compete only in distinct and separate silos. That is not at all a reflection of the dynamics at play in the real world today.

Where the FCC does conduct a limited cross-technology competitive analysis in today's Report, it picks winners and losers, declaring that the availability of certain technologies is overstated in the FCC's own broadband map. This approach is counterproductive to the FCC's broader objectives of closing the digital divide and ensuring Americans have access to competitive, high-speed services. Today's Report also expands its scope into various "equity" considerations, rather than remaining focused on the competitive indicators identified by Congress.

At this point, I cannot support the current Commission's approach to this Report. But the good news is that there will soon be an opportunity to correct course. I look forward to working on the next Communications Marketplace Report in 2026.

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¹ Communications Marketplace Report, GN Docket No. 20-60, Report, 36 FCC Rcd 2945 (2020) (Statement of Commissioner Carr, Approving in Part and Concurring in Part); Communications Marketplace Report, GN Docket No. 22-203, 37 FCC Rcd 15514 (2022) (Statement of Commissioner Carr, Approving in Part and Concurring in Part).