STATEMENT OF CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Re: Improving the Effectiveness of the Robocall Mitigation Database, WC Docket No. 24-213; Amendment of Part 1 of the Commission's Rules, Concerning the Practice and Procedure, Amendment of CORES Registration System, MD Docket No. 10-234, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (August 7, 2024).

The bad actors behind robocalls are relentless. To stop them, we need to be just as tenacious. That is why today we kick off a rulemaking to make the Robocall Mitigation Database more accurate, effective, and secure.

In the three years since its launch, the Robocall Mitigation Database has become an important tool that helps the Federal Communications Commission and our law enforcement partners keep tabs on carriers and what they are doing to stop junk robocalls. But there is room for improvement. So here we seek comment on ways to make sure filings in the database are up-to-date and authenticated. We also ask about penalties for false and inaccurate information.

This is not the only update we are working on to keep this junk off the line. Just last week, we signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Department of Treasury's Financial Crimes Enforcement Network so we can get access to Bank Secrecy Act information to track the different business entities that are set up to flood us with unwanted calls and texts. When coupled with the work of the Industry Traceback Group and the 49 State Attorneys General partnering with us, I think we can make real progress stopping the scammers behind these schemes. But to get the job done, we will need Congress to fix the gaping loophole left by the Supreme Court in its decision narrowing the definition of autodialer and reducing consumer protection under the Telephone Consumer Protection Act. We also need to make sure that when this agency issues big fines for illegal robocalls we can take the bad actors responsible to court and not just rely on our colleagues at the Department of Justice to do so.

Thank you to the Robocall Response Team and the staff who worked on this rulemaking, including Erik Beith, Callie Coker, Elizabeth Drogula, Jesse Goodwin, Trent Harkrader, Jodie May, Kiara Ortiz, Zachary Ross, and Lisa Zaina from the Wireline Competition Bureau; David Furth and Jeffrey Goldthorp from the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau; Jerusha Burnett and Kristi Thornton from the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau; Loyaan Egal, Alexander Hobbs, Rakesh Patel, Daniel Stepanicich, Kristi Thompson, and Jane van Benten from the Enforcement Bureau; Michele Ellison, Andrea Kelly, Richard Mallen, Erika Olsen, Anjali Singh, Elliot Tarloff, and Derek Yeo from the Office of General Counsel; Chelsea Fallon, Eugene Kiselev, Giulia McHenry, and Steven Rosenberg from the Office of Economics and Analytics; Daniel Daly, Allen Hill, Hua Lu, Tadele Shiferaw, and Mark Stephens from the Office of the Managing Director; Katie Gorscak and Will Wiquist from the Office of Media Relations; Jim Balaguer and Brian Moulton from the Office of Legislative Affairs; and Michael Gussow, Joycelyn James, Chana Wilkerson, and Sanford Williams from the Office of Communications Business Opportunities.