STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN BRENDAN CARR

Re: *Unleashing American Drone Dominance; Spectrum Rules and Policies for the Operation of Unmanned Aircraft Systems; Facilitating Opportunities for Advanced Air Mobility*, GN Docket No. 26-74; WT Docket No. 22-323; WT Docket No. 24-629, Report and Order (October 29, 2026).

Earlier this month, I had the opportunity to visit with a company called Dracoe in the Sandhills of Aberdeen, North Carolina, alongside Chairman Richard Hudson. Dracoe is veteran-owned company that got its start just last year. Today, it is building American-made drones and components near Fort Bragg. As we toured the manufacturing floor and test range, the team explained how it pairs low-cost drones with software to create realistic targets for counter-drone training. This gives our troops the chance to train for the threats they will face on the modern battlefield. And by bringing manufacturing, development, and training together, Dracoe can use what it learns on the range to improve what it builds in the factory.

Dracoe credited President Trump's call for American drone dominance as key to catalyzing the support and investment necessary to open up its production facilities. And it is that same call for American drone dominance that has led the FCC to take actions across the board—from encouraging the domestic onshoring of drone manufacturing, to protecting our supply chain from the security risks of drone equipment produced by our adversaries, to providing clarity so that federal and state law enforcement can protect the homeland from drone threats.

Another central element of the FCC's drone dominance agenda is opening up large swaths of spectrum to spur a competitive marketplace for drone connectivity. After all, virtually all drones need spectrum access—whether to deliver video or data to the ground, or to support mission-critical safety functions. And that demand is poised to increase as commercial drone traffic scales.

So today, we open up nearly 50 megahertz of low-band spectrum in the 800 MHz Cellular band for drone connectivity. For decades, this spectrum was trapped here on the ground. Aerial use of the band was locked behind outdated technical rules drafted in the 1990s, long before drone technology was viable. By fixing these rules, we give drone operators a new source of spectrum and open up new business models for aerial connectivity.

But today's decision is hardly the last word on bringing spectrum abundance to drones. After all, our proposal to modernize our rules for Supplemental Coverage from Space or SCS, which we just approved, also explores whether licensed wireless spectrum can be leased to satellite operators for drone connectivity. And earlier this year, we kickstarted a larger inquiry on drone connectivity in traditional satellite bands. That's just a small part of what's to come. In fact, we will be voting next month on a series of regulatory reforms to open up more spectrum for nationwide drone networks, in-flight broadband, and counter-UAS detection.

For their work on this item, I thank Joel Taubenblatt, Linda Chang, Ian Davis, Stacy Ferraro, Kari Hicks, and Roger Noel.