

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION**

Nomination Hearing
Wednesday, April 9, 2025, at 10:15 A.M.

DEMOCRATIC QUESTIONS FOR THE RECORD

Ms. Olivia Trusty

COVER PAGE

RANKING MEMBER MARIA CANTWELL (D-WA)

Local journalism. As discussed at your confirmation hearing, I believe local journalism is more important than ever, as are the local broadcast stations that serve their communities with access to trusted, on-the-ground news and reporting. The public deserves relevant, authentic local news that tells them what is happening in their communities.

Our democracy relies on open debate, and no government official should use their authority to stifle reporting, interfere with editorial decisions, or undermine constitutional rights. To ensure that the public continues to have access to trusted, non-partisan information, we need to find ways to help broadcasters serve their communities free from government intimidation.

Question 1: How can the Federal Communications Commission (FCC, the Commission) promote local journalism?

Answer: The FCC can promote localism by modernizing the regulatory framework governing today's media marketplace. Modernizing rules can help local broadcasters and radio stations compete against Big Tech for viewers, advertising revenues, and programming. Broadcasters can then be better positioned to invest more resources into local news and investigative journalism in communities across the country.

Question 2: Would modernizing FCC regulations like the treatment of virtual multichannel video programming distributors (vMVPDs) help level the playing field for local journalism?

Answer: It is important for the FCC to conduct a holistic review of FCC regulations governing the media marketplace and modernize those rules based on information in the record. Such information will likely inform how the FCC should move forward to best increase the availability of local news and enhance local broadcasters' ability to compete against vMVPDs.

Media and Free Speech Protections. Free speech is paramount under our laws, but we have witnessed the Trump Administration's efforts to target major outlets and smaller broadcast stations alike in repeated attacks against the truth. President Trump's FCC Chair, for example, has launched unprecedented attacks on the freedom of the press, using sham investigations to pressure and harass regulated companies in an effort to intimidate and bully them into submission.

Question 1: Do you believe that the FCC should be weaponized against media organizations?

Answer: No.

Question 2: Will you reject efforts by the Commission to impede or restrict the freedom of the press?

Answer: Yes.

Question 3: Should the FCC exercise its regulatory powers, including but not limited to merger approvals, spectrum authorization, and licensing authority, to threaten companies simply if they do not agree with the current administration?

Answer: No.

Affordable Connectivity Program. The Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP) helped 23 million households pay for essential broadband service before it ran out of funding last year. I have long been concerned that we don't have the right strategy to make broadband affordable for all Americans.

Question 1: Ms. Trusty, you said that affordable broadband was one of your top priorities. How will you accomplish this at the FCC?

Answer: If confirmed, I will work to expand access to affordable broadband by promoting more competition and choice in the broadband marketplace. I believe that more choice in the marketplace will lead to lower prices for consumers. I will also work to remove regulatory barriers that increase the cost of deploying broadband for providers and ultimately increase the cost of purchasing broadband services for consumers.

Question 2: Do you believe that the ACP should be renewed?

Answer: I support the Committee's continued efforts to expand access to affordable broadband. I would ultimately defer to Congress as to whether the ACP should be renewed.

Universal Service Fund. Promoting universal access to telecommunications services is one of the FCC's core principles. In Section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934, as amended, Congress directed the FCC to advance universal access to telecommunications services that are essential to education, public health, or public safety, and that are consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity. Yet the Universal Service Fund (USF) is at risk due to legal challenges to the FCC's ability to administer the Fund, and to Congress's right to direct the FCC to advance the goals of universal service. Moreover, a bipartisan group of members of this Committee has been working to ensure that the FCC can continue in its mission to offer connectivity to modern communications for all.

Question 1: Yes or no: Will you support the Commission's efforts to advance universal service, consistent with the public interest, convenience, and necessity, for services essential to education, public health, and public safety?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: While I am aware that the issue is currently being litigated, do you believe that Section 254 and the USF are legal?

Answer: It would be imprudent for me to prejudge the legality of an issue that is currently being challenged before the Supreme Court.

Free and Open Internet. Connectivity in the 21st Century depends upon access to a free and open internet that protects consumers, competition, and innovation, and promotes public safety and national security. As the expert agency on communications, the FCC's policies must advance access to broadband without preference for any content or traffic online, and without favoring any particular service, technology, or provider.

Question 1: Should internet service providers be allowed to block websites or content?

Answer: I believe that Congress is best positioned to determine the rules governing internet service providers' network management practices to ensure the continuation of a highly competitive, robust, and innovative internet economy that is available to all Americans. If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of any legislative effort related to this issue.

Question 2: Should internet service providers be allowed to prioritize a website or a service by speeding it up or slowing down other content in exchange for payment?

Answer: I believe that Congress is best positioned to determine the rules governing internet service providers' network management practices to ensure the continuation of a highly competitive, robust, and innovative internet economy that is available to all Americans. If confirmed, I would welcome the opportunity to be a part of any legislative effort related to this issue.

Question 3: Since the first Trump Administration repealed net neutrality rules in 2017, the FCC has received approximately 40,000 consumer complaints about internet service providers concerning "speed, throttling, open internet, and data cap" concerns. Do you believe the FCC has a role to play in addressing these complaints?

Answer: The FCC has a responsibility to investigate consumer complaints and act as necessary in accordance with facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the FCC's authorities under the law.

Tribal Coordination and Outreach. Washington State is home to 29 federally recognized Tribes, each with their own Tribal government working to preserve culture, protect resources, and improve the lives of those in their communities. Accessing modern communications like broadband is an essential tool for advancing these goals and requires coordination at the local, state, and federal level.

Question 1: Yes or no: Do you commit to working with Tribal governments on broadband connectivity and deployment issues relevant to their communities?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: If confirmed, will you advance policies at the FCC that recognize the sovereignty of Tribal governments and encourage coordination with Tribal representatives?

Answer: Yes

Question 3: Recently, the Commission has invested in targeted outreach efforts to increase participation of Tribal libraries in the E-Rate program. If confirmed, what steps will you commit to continuing to prioritize support for Tribal libraries? What steps will you take to ensure such outreach continues, and what recommendations will you make to improve the Commission's efforts?

Answer: The Universal Service Fund and the programs it supports are facing an uncertain future, in part, because of a shrinking contribution base. If confirmed, I commit to working with Congress and interested stakeholders to identify a "specific, predictable, and sufficient" form of support that empowers the FCC to continue addressing connectivity needs across the country, including the connectivity needs of Tribal libraries. I also commit to making recommendations and working within the Commission to streamline application processes, provide technical assistance, and promote the availability of digital literacy and workforce development programs in Tribal communities to improve the Commission's efforts to expand access to modern communications services in these areas.

988. In recent years, the FCC has played an integral role in expanding access to 988 – The Suicide & Crisis Lifeline, first by designating a three-digit number to make it easier for those in crisis to reach help, then by supporting texting to 988, and most recently by implementing geo-routing to route callers to their closest 988 call center. Yet the Trump Administration's cuts to the federal workforce, including massive cuts at the Department of Health and Human Services, threaten to cripple support and staffing resources for 988, cutting off access to critical mental health services, including for the LGBTQIA+ community, veterans, and Spanish speakers.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you support policies at the FCC that will continue to promote and expand access to 988 for all who need it, regardless of background, sex, gender, race, or creed?

Answer: Yes.

Robocalls and Robotexts. In your testimony, you pledged to protect consumers from illegal robocalls. Washingtonians receive tens of millions of robocalls each month, and one study in 2024 suggests that Washington consumers are among those who receive the most spam calls in the country. Unwanted text messages are also a growing nuisance.

Question 1: How will you work to reduce the number of unwanted, and often fraudulent, robocalls for all Americans, including consumers in Washington State?

Answer: If confirmed, I will work with Congress to help strengthen the FCC's authorities to combat unwanted and fraudulent robocalls. I will also work with international partners as well as state attorneys general to protect consumers from these abusive calls. If confirmed, I also commit to supporting efforts to develop more proactive call blocking measures to prevent robocalls from reaching consumers in the first place.

Question 2: Do you support regulations that work to reduce the number of spam text messages?

Answer: I support the idea that new regulations may be necessary to reduce the number of spam text messages.

Cyber Security. The United States has been under increasing cyber-attacks by hostile foreign powers, notably China and Russia. Last year, Chinese hackers, as part of the Salt Typhoon attack, hacked into U.S. telecom networks and monitored phone calls and text messages, targeting prominent figures, including Vice President J.D. Vance.

Question 1: What is the FCC's role in mitigating attacks like Salt Typhoon, and what should the FCC do to help prevent future attacks?

Answer: To mitigate future attacks like Salt Typhoon, the FCC has a responsibility to work with federal partners to ensure telecommunications providers have the tools and resources they need to defend their networks against malicious cyber threat actors. To prevent future attacks, I believe the FCC should participate in ongoing whole-of-government conversations about how to improve the efficacy of the United States' deterrence efforts against nation state actors. The FCC should also work with federal partners and the private sector to diversify and strengthen the U.S. domestic supply chain for telecommunications network components to increase the security of the Nation's communications infrastructure.

Public Media. Public media provides a vital community service by offering local content, breaking news, and weather. But public television and radio stations are under attack by the Trump FCC, where the current Chair has initiated sham investigations to intimidate public media organizations that the President has deemed unfavorable.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you support policies that promote and preserve public media in communities across the country?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that public media can operate in accordance with the law.

FCC Independence. Congress established the FCC to oversee some of the most important institutions in our society, including the media industry. Because of this influence, the FCC is an independent agency and not subject to direct presidential control.

President Trump is now wrongfully trying to bring independent agencies under his control, recently firing the two Democratic commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission, another independent agency.

Question 1: Do you believe it is important for the FCC to be independent of the President?

Answer: Whether agencies like the FCC are legally independent from the Executive Branch is subject to pending litigation. Whatever the FCC's legal status is determined to be, my

commitment to this Committee and to Congress is that I will follow the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding before the Commission, if confirmed.

Question 2: Do you believe that the FCC benefits by having both Democratic and Republican Commissioners to debate and decide on policy and regulatory issues?

Answer: If confirmed, I will strive to reach consensus with everyone and anyone at the FCC in carrying out the agency's mission.

Question 3: If confirmed, do you commit to carrying out your duties independently?

Answer: If confirmed, I will be guided by the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding before the Commission.

Question 4: Would you support the President's firing of an FCC Commissioner due solely to their political affiliation?

Answer: I would defer to the President, the Senate, and the Courts regarding the oversight and management of nominees.

Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion. President Trump's FCC Chair has initiated a startling display of agency overreach by sending letters to three regulated companies—Comcast-NBCUniversal, Verizon, and Disney/ABC—informing them of investigations into their DEI practices. These letters, which cite concerns about each company's compliance with the FCC's equal employment opportunities rules, target policies that the Chair labels as "invidious forms of DEI discrimination" when they are in fact focused on encouraging and cultivating business opportunities for a diverse and qualified workforce.

Question 1: Do you agree that a private company should be able to make a business decision to prioritize diversity free from FCC interference and second-guessing?

Answer: In accordance with Section 151 of the Communications Act, the FCC has a responsibility to make sure communications services are available to all Americans without discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics, including "race, color, national origin, or sex". The FCC also has a responsibility to enforce civil rights protections contained in Sections 334 and 554 of the Communications Act regarding equal employment opportunity. If confirmed, my commitment is to uphold and enforce the law.

Bipartisan cooperation. Nominees to fill open seats on independent commissions are nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate. This Committee has long worked with the White House to ensure that there is bipartisan cooperation when there are vacant seats to be filled by both parties.

Question 1: Yes or no: Will you commit to working with this Committee and responding to any inquiries, regardless of party?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: Yes or no: Do you support having a fully staffed FCC with five Commissioners, including two Democrats?

Answer: If confirmed, my job will be to work with everyone and anyone at the FCC to carry out the mission of the agency. I would defer to the President, the Senate, and the Courts on the oversight and management of FCC nominees.

Question 3: Yes or no: Do you think the American people benefit from having a fully staffed FCC?

Answer: I believe that the American people benefit when the FCC operates efficiently in carrying out its mission; is responsive to the connectivity needs of unserved or underserved communities across the country; and is a good steward of taxpayer dollars.

Tariffs. President Trump's tariffs are raising the cost of living, crashing the stock market, and causing uncertainty for our business community.

Ms. Trusty, you spoke about the importance of affordable broadband. A recent study by Price Waterhouse Coopers found that these tariffs could raise costs in the telecom and technology sectors by \$126 billion.

Question 1: Yes or no: Do you think that these tariffs will make broadband less affordable?

Answer: I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

Question 2: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will make broadband more expensive to deploy?

Answer: I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

Question 3: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating the USF's High Cost program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to

address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the USF High Cost program, the FCC should focus on removing federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce the cost of broadband deployment. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects in the USF High Cost program.

Question 4: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating the USF's E-Rate program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the E-Rate program, the FCC should focus on removing federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce the cost of broadband deployment to schools and libraries. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects to schools and libraries.

Question 5: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating the USF's Lifeline program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the Lifeline program, the FCC should focus on removing federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce the cost of broadband deployment, which will ultimately reduce costs for end-users. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects, and reduce the cost of broadband services for low-income consumers.

Question 6: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating the Universal Service Fund's Rural Health Care program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs?

Answer: I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the USF Rural Health Care program, the FCC should focus on removing federal regulatory barriers, and working with states and localities to remove state and local regulatory barriers, to reduce the cost of broadband deployment projects that support access to health care in rural communities. The FCC should also work to strengthen and diversify the Nation's domestic supply chain to promote more competition and choice in telecommunications components and equipment, which can further reduce the cost of broadband projects and promote access to health care in unserved or underserved communities.

Question 7: Yes or no: Do you think that tariffs will increase costs for entities participating in the FCC's Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program? If so, how should the Commission address those increased costs? Will Congress need to appropriate additional funds to remove untrusted Chinese telecom equipment from U.S. networks?

Answer: I am not an economic or finance policy expert and cannot offer an informed opinion on tariffs. That said, I have full faith and confidence in President Trump and his team to address trade imbalances that ultimately benefit the Nation's long-term domestic economic interests.

As a general matter, to address any unanticipated increased costs in the FCC's Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Reimbursement Program, the FCC should promote the adoption of Open RAN technologies to diversify and strengthen the Nation's domestic supply chain. This can help promote more competition and reduce the cost of telecommunications equipment. To my knowledge, there is not a current need for Congress to appropriate additional funds to remove untrusted Chinese telecom equipment from U.S. networks.

Spectrum. During the first Trump Administration, there were failures to coordinate on Federal and commercial spectrum policy.

I believe we must create a coordinated approach to domestic spectrum policy, where agencies such as the Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation (DOT), Department of Defense (DoD), and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration work together with the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) and FCC – cooperatively – on spectrum.

Question 1: How should the FCC coordinate spectrum auctions with federal agencies, if authority is reinstated, to ensure that critical federal systems and capabilities are not compromised or diminished?

Answer: I believe that the FCC should coordinate with NTIA and consult with impacted federal agencies, through established mechanisms such as the Interdepartment Radio Advisory Committee to ensure that spectrum management decisions, including auctions, are informed by economic and national security analyses.

Question 2: Yes or no: Do you agree that we cannot put our national security and public safety at risk to free up spectrum for sale to the commercial sector?

Answer: Yes.

Question 3: Yes or no: Do you agree that proper coordination of spectrum use is vital?

Answer: I agree that coordination between the FCC and NTIA on spectrum, as well as consultation with impacted federal agencies, is vital to putting spectrum to highest and best use and advancing the Nation's economic and national security interests.

Question 4: Do you think it's wise to auction Federal spectrum before technical studies are finished to determine the viability of relocating Federal systems?

Answer: I believe that technical studies can help inform the spectrum management process and ensure that both NTIA and the FCC are putting spectrum to its highest and best use, in support of the Nation's economic and national security interests.

Question 5: If confirmed, will you commit to collaborating on a spectrum policy that engages stakeholders from NTIA and the Department of Commerce, DoD, DOT, and industry, to work towards resolution to restore U.S. leadership in innovation?

Answer: Yes.

Question 6: Do you believe that spectrum reallocation studies in the Lower 3 GHz and 7/8 GHz need to be completed before the FCC begins a proceeding to auction those bands?

Answer: Given that this is an active topic of debate before Congress, I would defer to Congress on how the technical studies of these bands should inform spectrum management processes at NTIA and the FCC.

Question 7: Do you agree that if the DoD is required to surrender use of a band of frequencies for which the DoD is the primary user that the NTIA must make available, if necessary, an alternative band of frequencies as replacement for the band being surrendered as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA?

Answer: I agree that Section 1062 (b)(1)(B) of the FY2000 NDAA states the following: "If, in order to make available for other use a band of frequencies of which it is a primary user, the Department of Defense is required to surrender use of such band of frequencies, the Department shall not surrender use of such band of frequencies until: the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, in consultation with the Federal

Communications Commission, identifies and makes available to the Department for its primary use, if necessary, an alternative band or bands of frequencies as a replacement for the band to be so surrendered.”

Question 8: Do you agree that the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Defense, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff must jointly certify to the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services and the Committee on Commerce of the House of Representatives that the alternative band that is made available to the DoD provides comparable technical characteristics to restore essential military capability that will be lost as a result of the band of frequencies to be so surrendered as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA?

Answer: Yes.

Question 9: Did this process occur in advance of FCC Auction 110 of the 3.45 to 3.55 GHz Band where the DoD was the primary user?

Answer: I was not at the FCC during this time and therefore cannot speak to what processes did or did not occur in advance of Auction 110.

Question 10: Will you commit to me that you will follow the law and not vote to auction a band of frequencies where the DoD is the primary user unless and until the process as described in Section 1062(b)(1)(B) of the 2000 NDAA is completed?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to following the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

Section 230. Congress passed Section 230 in 1996 to provide a liability shield for the then-nascent internet industry. While there have been discussions in Congress about updating the law, the FCC has rejected the idea that it has the authority to enforce Section 230 since it was passed nearly 30 years ago. But the current FCC Chairman is now talking about attempting to interpret the law to say that the FCC can police what is said online, and that they will do so to favor conservative voices online.

Question 1: Do you agree that it is Congress’s role, not the FCC’s, to update Section 230?

Answer: I agree that Congress has the authority to amend or update Section 230 in the Communications Act.

Question 2: Do you believe that online platforms have First Amendment rights?

Answer: Yes.

Mapping. It is critical that we have the best data to make important decisions about where to expend taxpayer funds for broadband deployment. While the FCC has improved its broadband maps over the last few years, more remains to be done. I am particularly concerned that the

current maps wholly rely on providers' assertions about the speed and availability of their service.

Question 1: Will you commit to working with me and this committee to continue to improve the FCC's broadband maps?

Answer: Yes.

SENATOR AMY KLOBUCHAR (D-MN)

Next Generation 9-1-1

Our 9-1-1 systems are outdated and in need of significant upgrades. As co-chair of the Senate Next Generation 9-1-1 Caucus, I've been working to secure funding to modernize America's 9-1-1 call centers through spectrum auction proceeds.

1. Do you agree we need to modernize our 9-1-1 infrastructure?

Yes.

2. If confirmed, will you commit to working with Congress to ensure America's 911 Centers have the cybersecurity, resiliency, and interoperability that Next Generation 911 technology provides?

Yes.

3. What concrete measures should the F-C-C prioritize to promote Next Generation 9-1-1 deployment?

To promote Next Generation 9-1-1 (NG911) deployment, the FCC can do the following: proactively enforce Commission rules against fee diversion to ensure resources are available for NG911 deployment; support the development of interoperability standards between states and localities to ensure nationwide NG911 interoperability; and promote public awareness and education about the benefits of NG911 technology to incentivize greater investments into the technology.

SENATOR BRIAN SCHATZ (D-HI)

DOGE Access to FCC

Reports have found that individuals identified as employees of DOGE have been listed in a public directory for FCC staff. Within the scope of FCC's jurisdiction includes policy and regulatory matters, including broadband and satellite communications, of relevance to Elon Musk's business interests.

1. Will you commit to ensuring that DOGE employees are conducting activities that do not pose any conflicts of interest with Elon Musk's business interests?

If confirmed, I commit to acting without fear or favor toward any individual or entity petitioning the FCC for a certain outcome regarding any proceeding before the Commission regardless of who is employed at the FCC or any other federal agencies.

2. Will you commit to ensuring DOGE employees abide by appropriate cybersecurity standards and data access restrictions if provided access to internal FCC systems and information?

If confirmed, I commit to abiding by cybersecurity standards and data access restrictions to internal FCC systems and information, and ensuring that all individuals under my authority do the same.

White House Oversight of Independent Agencies

On February 18, 2025, President Trump announced an Executive Order (EO) entitled, "Ensuring Accountability for All Agencies." The EO institutes an unprecedented requirement for direct presidential oversight over actions and strategic plans by independent agencies, including the FCC.

3. As Commissioner, will you commit to upholding the independence of decision making at the FCC?

If confirmed, I commit to making decisions based on facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law.

Federal Trust Responsibility to Tribal and Native Communities

It is critical that the United States continues to uphold its trust responsibility to Tribal and Native communities.

4. Please provide a description of your understanding of the federal trust responsibility to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and Native Hawaiians, and how that necessitates continuance of programs that directly and indirectly serve these communities.

The federal Indian trust responsibility is a legally enforceable fiduciary obligation on the part of the United States to protect tribal treaty rights, lands, assets, and resources, as well as a duty to

carry out the mandates of federal law with respect to American Indian, Native Hawaiian, and Alaska Native tribes and villages.

5. At FCC, will you commit to upholding this trust responsibility?

Yes.

6. Yes or no, will you commit to holding Tribal consultation before the FCC makes changes to programs that serve Tribes, or engages in Reductions in Force and agency reorganization efforts that may affect Tribes and service on Tribal lands?

If confirmed, I commit to consulting with a wide range of stakeholders, including Tribes, on proceedings that come before the FCC.

7. Yes or no, will you continue to abide by the NTIA-FCC-Department of the Interior Tribal Spectrum Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)?

If confirmed, I commit to abiding by any and all MOUs in force and effect that involve the FCC's coordination with other federal agencies.

8. Given the growing competition for mid-band spectrum between military and commercial users, how should policymakers view Tribal governments in this dynamic?

Given that spectrum is a finite resource, policymakers should always strive to put spectrum to its highest and best use and maximize the economic and societal benefits of spectrum use to ensure the best return for all people across the country, including those living on Tribal lands.

9. Do Tribes represent a unique category of spectrum stakeholders, and what role does direct access to spectrum for them play in expanding competition in underserved areas?

In Auction 108 (2.5 GHz), the FCC established a Tribal priority window in recognition of the unique connectivity needs and challenges facing Tribal lands. This particular auction can help inform how future opportunities for direct access to spectrum in Tribal communities can expand competition in unserved or underserved areas.

10. Yes or no, will you commit to maintaining the Office of Native Affairs and Policy at the FCC?

If confirmed, I commit to working with the hardworking and dedicated staff at the FCC to address the Nation's connectivity needs across the country, including on Tribal lands.

11. Yes or no, will you commit to issuing internal guidance clarifying that Executive Order 14151 does not apply to Tribes and Tribal programs, as well as services and staff associated with the Commission's government-to-government relationship with Tribes?

If confirmed, I commit to upholding and enforcing the law, which requires the FCC to make communications services available across the country without discrimination on the basis of protected characteristics. I also commit to promoting policies that acknowledge and support the unique connectivity needs of individuals, families, and communities living in rural and remote areas, including Tribal lands.

Next Generation Television/ATSC 3.0

In 2023, I co-authored a bipartisan letter, signed by 28 senators, to the FCC urging the Commission to take an active role in a successful ATSC 3.0 transition. This transition will play an important role in supporting the competitiveness of local TV broadcasters and the services they provide to their communities, including expanded local news, advanced emergency alerting, and improved viewer experience.

12. Will you commit to ensuring that the FCC provides a timely regulatory framework and next steps for this initiative?

If confirmed, I commit to working to ensure that the FCC provides a timely regulatory framework and next steps for this initiative.

13. Will you commit to ensuring the FCC takes an active role in addressing potential challenges posed by the transition from ATSC 1.0 to 3.0, including working with Congress, public broadcasters, industry, and consumer groups to ensure that consumers with legacy TVs are not harmed by any changes?

Yes.

SENATOR EDWARD MARKEY (D-MA)

Disability Accessibility

People with disabilities rely on accessible services, including Telecommunications Relay Services, audio description, and accessible software to communicate and access video programming. The FCC has been tasked by Congress in numerous laws to ensure telecommunications and video programming providers make their services and products accessibility to people with disabilities.

Question 1: If confirmed, will you commit to carrying out these laws and to ensuring the FCC fully enforces the laws within its jurisdiction, including the Communications and Video Accessibility Act?

Answer: Yes.

Question 2: If confirmed, will you ensure that the FCC itself maintains accessible websites, facilities, and services so that the public and employees with disabilities can fully benefit from, participate in, and contribute to the FCC's work?

Answer: Yes.

Question 3: If confirmed, will you commit to ensuring that people with disabilities continue to be able to access emerging communications services as technology evolves?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to working to ensure that people with disabilities can continue to access emerging communications services consistent with the law and the scope of the FCC's authority.

SENATOR GARY PETERS (D-MI)

FCC Independence

1. The FCC website states that the FCC is “an independent U.S. government agency overseen by Congress.” We have unfortunately seen this President undermine independent agencies by illegally firing Democratic commissioners at the Federal Trade Commission.

a. Do you agree that the FCC is an independent agency?

Whether federal agencies like the FCC are legally independent from the Executive Branch is subject to pending litigation. Whatever the FCC’s legal status is determined to be, if confirmed, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

b. What protections and practices make the FCC an independent agency?

Whether federal agencies like the FCC are legally independent from the Executive Branch is subject to pending litigation. Whatever the FCC’s legal status is determined to be, if confirmed, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

c. If confirmed, will you commit to carrying out the FCC’s mission free from undue influence or control from the President?

If confirmed, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law with respect to any proceeding that comes before the Commission.

Weaponization of the FCC

2. President Trump has suggested on multiple occasions that licenses for major news organizations like CBS, ABC or NBC should be revoked when they conducted reporting he disagreed with. However, under the first amendment, major news organizations can and should publish news that is inconvenient or critical of politicians – including the President – without fear of retaliation.

This isn’t a partisan concern either – in 2017 former FCC Chairman Ajit Pai said: “Under the law, the FCC does not have the authority to revoke a license of a broadcast station based on the content of a particular newscast.”

If confirmed, will you oppose any attempt to weaponize the FCC to intimidate news media or limit freedom of the press?

Yes.

Public Broadcasting and Emergencies

3. Public television and radio stations play an integral role in our nation's emergency alert system. In 2022, FEMA selected CPB to administer the Next Generation Warning System (NGWS) grant program, providing public media stations funding to replace and upgrade infrastructure to expand alert, warning, and interoperable communications, creating a more resilient and secure public alerting system during emergencies.

Delta College Public Media, which serves a largely rural and underserved audience in the crook of Michigan's thumb, received a grant allocation of up to \$976,708 under this program. Modernizing emergency communications to be able to reach underserved areas is becoming increasingly crucial – particularly with recent ice storms in northern Michigan causing widespread power outages and a complete wipeout of phone and cellular services.

If confirmed, do you commit to working to preserve this important funding stream to CPB and supporting public media stations' efforts to reach underserved communities during emergencies?

If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that public media can operate in accordance with the law. I would defer to Congress on preserving funding streams to CPB as the FCC has no authority over these funds.

Public Broadcasting Community Good

4. Public broadcasting plays an essential role in local news and programming, education, public safety, and more. For 2025, Congress appropriated \$535 million to the CPB, which is less than 1/100th of a percent out of the total budget and costs, on average, only \$1.50 per American per year.

In my state, the Michigan Learning Channel is a publicly funded statewide initiative to improve math and literacy, and I always like watching Michigan Out-of-Doors, a program which promotes the outdoor recreation and beauty our state has to offer.

Do you agree that public media plays an essential role in communities that traditional profit-based broadcasters are not able to fill?

Public television was formally created in the late 1960s through the Public Broadcasting Act to serve and promote cultural, educational, and civic engagement. The FCC has a responsibility to ensure that public media (i.e. non-commercial stations) operate legally and in the public interest. I would defer to Congress as to whether public media plays an essential role in today's video and media marketplace.

Support for USF

5. You discussed in your testimony and during the hearing that one of your primary goals on the FCC will be closing the digital divide.

One of the FCC's most powerful tools to that end has been the Universal Service Fund, which supports rural broadband, internet access at schools and libraries, affordability, and more. As a member of the bipartisan USF Working Group, I know reforms are needed to make this fund sustainable for decades to come. Unfortunately, the USF has been under attack.

Do you agree that the Universal Service Fund is a vital resource that must be maintained in some form if we are to close the digital divide?

If confirmed, I commit to advancing and preserving universal service, as required by Section 254 of the Communications Act, to meet the connectivity needs of all Americans. I also commit to working with Congress to identify a "specific, predictable, and sufficient" form of support for the FCC to continue expanding access to modern communications services to communities across the country.

SENATOR TAMMY BALDWIN (D-WI)

1. Robocalls and Scams

Robocalls and ever increasingly sophisticated scams pose a serious threat to millions of Americans, especially to our seniors. These scams can lead to significant financial losses including people losing their life's retirement savings, breach of sensitive personal information, and loss of peace of mind as people are bombarded by these spam communications.

As Commissioner of the FCC, how would you work to protect Americans from these increasingly dangerous scam calls and text messages?

If confirmed, I will work with Congress to help strengthen the FCC's authorities to combat unwanted and fraudulent robocalls. I will also work with international partners as well as state attorneys general to protect consumers from these abusive calls. I will also support efforts to develop more proactive call blocking measures to prevent robocalls from reaching consumers in the first place.

2. Local Programming

Unfortunately, Wisconsin is home to a number of "orphan counties" who find themselves put into out of state television media markets and are unable to access local programming such as local news and local sports.

If confirmed, will you work with my office to address the issue of "orphan counties" and help ensure Americans are able to obtain access to local, relevant television programming?

Yes.

3. Rural Connectivity

In your testimony you emphasized the importance of quality internet connection for people to fully participate in our increasingly digital economy.

As Commissioner, how would you work to increase broadband connectivity in rural areas? Additionally, how would you ensure that connectivity is financially accessible?

If confirmed, I would work to increase broadband connectivity in rural areas by doing the following: coordinating with other federal agencies with broadband programs to eliminate program fragmentation and duplication across the federal government and ensure federal resources are better targeted to unserved areas; remove regulatory barriers that impede or increase the cost of deploying broadband to rural areas; embrace new technologies such as satellite broadband or fixed wireless services that can provide a more cost effective solution in expanding connectivity to rural, unserved areas; and consider adjustments to USF programs to better target resources to unserved communities.

To ensure connectivity is financially accessibility or affordable, if confirmed, I will work to promote more competition and choice in the broadband marketplace, which can improve the quality of service and reduce costs for consumers. I will also work to remove regulatory barriers that increase the cost of deploying broadband for providers and increase the cost of purchasing broadband services for consumers.

4. 988-lifeline

The 988-lifeline program is a vital resource for Americans, offering support in critical times of need. LGBTQ+ people, especially youth, experience increasing rates of suicide, with these individuals being 8.4 times more likely to have reported an attempt to end their lives.

To continue to support all Americans in times of need, will you commit to ensuring all existing FCC support services and resources for LGBTQ+ people will remain accessible?

If confirmed, I commit to ensuring that FCC support services and resources are accessible to all Americans, including LGBTQ+ individuals.

SENATOR TAMMY DUCKWORTH (D-IL)

Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act

Question 1: In 2023, my bipartisan Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act was signed into law to prevent prison telecom providers from gouging consumers when they call their incarcerated loved ones. Last year, the FCC voted unanimously to implement the law, cutting the cost of a fifteen-minute phone call to or from large jails from as much as eleven dollars to just ninety cents. The FCC also took the first step and slashing the cost of video calls by implementing an interim rate cap on video calls as they collect more data.

Had you been a member of the FCC last year, would you have joined all the other Commissioners in voting to adopt the rule implementing my Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act?

Answer: In light of pending litigation regarding the FCC's implementation of the Martha Wright-Reed Just and Reasonable Communications Act, I believe it would be imprudent for me to comment or speculate on what I would have done, if I had been a member of the Commission. That said, if confirmed, I commit to protecting consumers from exploitation in the telecommunications marketplace.

SENATOR JACKY ROSEN (D-NV)

Network Security

Our adversaries continue to grow more sophisticated and aggressive in their cyberattacks, including those in the telecom sector. A big part of network security is not just ensuring we have secure hardware – though I am thankful we secured additional funding last fall for “Rip and Replace” to help providers use trusted equipment – but increasingly, our networks must have sophisticated and dynamic defenses against network intrusions, like Salt Typhoon.

Question 1: What do you see the FCC’s role in promoting secure networks and cybersecurity?

Answer: To mitigate future attacks like Salt Typhoon, the FCC has a responsibility to work with federal partners to ensure telecommunications providers have the tools and resources they need to defend their networks against malicious cyber threat actors. To prevent future attacks, I believe the FCC should participate in ongoing whole-of-government conversations about how to improve the efficacy of the United States’ deterrence efforts against nation state actors. The FCC should also work with federal partners and the private sector to diversify and strengthen the U.S. domestic supply chain for telecommunications network components to increase the security of the Nation’s communications infrastructure.

Question 2: If confirmed, what steps would you take to move the telecom sector forward in adopting better cybersecurity practices and standards?

Answer: If confirmed, I will promote the adoption of Open RAN technologies that can help strengthen and diversify the Nation’s telecommunications supply chain and increase network security. I will also promote the use of the FCC’s authorities in the Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act to ban high-risk equipment and vendors from the Nation’s communications infrastructure. If confirmed, I would also focus on increasing the security of undersea cable infrastructure to better protect the Nation’s economic and national security interests.

USF Cybersecurity

Hackers are increasingly targeting schools and health care organizations in ransomware attacks. In fact, Clark County School District was the target of a ransomware attack in 2023 that exposed the sensitive information of over 200,000 Nevada students. The previous FCC chair established a cybersecurity pilot program within the USF’s E-Rate program, allowing schools and libraries to use E-rate funding for cybersecurity expenses.

Question 1: If confirmed, would you support actions like this pilot program and work with Congress to help protect schools from ransomware attacks?

Answer: Schools are a target-rich environment for cyber-attacks because they have legacy infrastructure that is vulnerable to exploitation and they store a lot of sensitive personal

information. If confirmed, I commit to working with schools and libraries to strengthen their cybersecurity defenses from ransomware attackers and other cyber threat actors.

Broadband Affordability

Ensuring that communities can afford broadband is just as critical as building the networks themselves, and not every option is affordable. Satellite internet providers like Elon Musk's Starlink can be much more expensive for consumers than fiber or fixed wireless service. With monthly fees from \$120 to \$500, these prices are simply out of reach for many low-income and rural households.

Question 1: If confirmed, would you support expanding the FCC's Lifeline program to provide a more robust, ACP-like subsidy—so that affordability doesn't remain a barrier for newly connected communities, and the investments in broadband deployment translate into meaningful adoption?

Answer: If confirmed, I will work to expand access to affordable broadband by promoting more competition and choice in the broadband marketplace. I believe that more choice in the marketplace will lead to lower prices for consumers. I will also work to remove regulatory barriers that increase the cost of deploying broadband for providers and ultimately increase the cost of purchasing broadband services for consumers.

I believe the FCC needs to work urgently with Congress to identify a "specific, predictable, and sufficient" form of support to continue meeting connectivity needs across the country, before making significant reforms to the USF programs.

Tribal Priority Windows

The FCC's 2.5 gigahertz Tribal Priority Window, enacted by former Chairman Pai in 2020, helped hundreds of Tribes claim spectrum and deploy broadband where commercial providers failed to reach. The upcoming AWS-3 auction presents a similar opportunity – and it could be done without significantly delaying the auction or impacting the value of the licenses.

Question 1: If confirmed, would you support creating future Tribal Priority Windows or other public interest set-asides to ensure Tribal Nations and unserved communities can access spectrum and grow their communities directly, rather than waiting on commercial deployment?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to putting spectrum to its highest and best use and maximizing the economic and societal benefits of spectrum use to ensure the best return for all people across the country, including those living on Tribal lands. In Auction 108 (2.5 GHz), the FCC established a Tribal priority window in recognition of the unique connectivity needs and challenges facing Tribal lands. This particular auction can help inform how future opportunities for direct access to spectrum in Tribal communities can expand competition and access to modern communications services in unserved or underserved areas.

CBRS & DOD

Since the FCC finalized the rules for the CBRS band, we have seen it being used in a variety of innovative ways. In Las Vegas, Cox worked with the City to launch a private network on CBRS that powers smart cities and Internet of Things (IoT) devices. As you know, CBRS is shared with the military, and has been an important model in how the FCC and the military can work together to enhance commercial spectrum use while protecting defense equities.

Question 1: Will you commit to continuing to work with DoD and the NTIA to ensure any changes to CBRS's rules are not made unilaterally and do not harm our national defense?

Answer: If confirmed, I commit to working with NTIA, DOD, and any other impacted federal agency in spectrum proceedings that come before the FCC.

SENATOR BEN RAY LUJÁN (D-NM)

Q1. I have been on the record in support of FCC policies that help many points of view reach the public. This does not just mean viewpoints I agree with. Whereas Chair Carr has put pressure on broadcasters that take positions President Trump dislikes, I have been supportive of rules that would help independent video programmers gain an opportunity to compete by bringing their content to the public no matter their viewpoint. I am similarly concerned that the broadcast industry is now asking the FCC to eliminate ownership limits altogether. **Do you think there is any limit to how many households a single company can reach?** As you know, although Congress set a national ownership cap at 39 percent of U.S. households, the way the FCC measures the cap means some companies already reach 70 percent of the U.S. audience. **Is 70 percent of the country too large? How few independently owned TV stations in a single community or local market are too few?**

There is currently an active proceeding before the FCC on media ownership limits. To remain impartial, I believe it would be imprudent for me to comment on issues related to the active proceeding in my capacity as a nominee. As a general matter, for any media related proceeding before the FCC, I commit to following the facts in the record, FCC precedent, and the law, if confirmed.

Q2. As you know, Congress unfortunately failed to extend the American Connectivity Program (ACP), which expanded affordable broadband access to over 23 million households. That makes the FCC's Lifeline program, a part of the universal service fund (USF), even more important today for helping eligible, low-income Americans access wireless and internet service. **Could you share more about ways you believe Lifeline could be improved? Please be specific.**

I support the Committee's continued efforts to expand access to affordable broadband. To improve Lifeline, I believe the FCC should work with Congress to do the following: develop performance metrics to better track the program's effectiveness in expanding access to affordable communications services; conduct enhanced oversight over the eligibility of Lifeline recipients to ensure the resources are going to those in need; and closely align the Lifeline program with digital literacy efforts.

Q3. Yes or no, do you think that the Universal Service Fund should have a stable, dedicated funding source – rather than rely on annual appropriations?

I believe that carrying out the FCC's universal service mission requires the funding source to be "specific, predictable, and sufficient" in accordance with Section 254 of the Communications Act.

Q4. How do you think the FCC should modernize the Universal Service Fund to ensure its long-term sustainability?

I believe the FCC should modernize the USF to ensure its long-term sustainability by increasing transparency and accountability into how USF monies are spent across the four programs it supports. This will ensure that the funds are spent judiciously and go further in

expanding access to communications services across the country. I also believe USF should be better coordinated with other federal broadband programs, like BEAD, to avoid fragmentation, duplication, overbuilding, and the waste of taxpayer dollars.

Q5. Would you support creating future Tribal Priority Windows or other public interest set-asides to ensure Tribal Nations and unserved communities can access spectrum and grow their communities directly, rather than waiting on commercial deployment?

If confirmed, I commit to putting spectrum to its highest and best use and maximizing the economic and societal benefits of spectrum use to ensure the best return for all people across the country, including those living on Tribal lands. In Auction 108 (2.5 GHz), the FCC established a Tribal priority window in recognition of the unique connectivity needs and challenges facing Tribal lands. This particular auction can help inform how future opportunities for direct access to spectrum in Tribal communities can expand competition and access to modern communications services in unserved or underserved areas.

Q6. When we met in my office you said that both President Biden and President Trump were the “certified” winners in 2020 and 2024 respectively. You would not say whether of them were “lawfully” elected. **Yes or no, were 100 members of the currently sitting U.S. Senate lawfully elected?**

All 100 members of the sitting U.S. Senate were certified as the winners of each of their respective elections.

SENATOR JOHN HICKENLOOPER (D-CO)

Media Oversight

Chairman Carr has initiated investigations into Disney, ABC, Comcast, CBS, and others regarding what he sees as discriminatory practices or unfair news coverage. These investigations come at a time when Congress has worked on a bipartisan basis to attract journalists to newsrooms in Colorado and across the country.

Q1: Do you think Chairman Carr's investigations of broadcasters could negatively affect attracting future journalists to newsrooms? Why or why not?

As a nominee to be a Commissioner at the FCC, I believe it would be imprudent for me to comment on the impact of any pending proceeding before the Commission. That said, I believe local news is vital to communities across the country. Local broadcasters provide news and information about social and cultural events, educational programming, and critical information during emergencies and disasters. If confirmed, I commit to promoting policies that empower local broadcasters to expand access to local news to all Americans.

Spectrum Relocation Fund

The Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF) provides a funding mechanism through which Federal agencies can recover the costs associated with relocating their radio communications systems or sharing the reallocated spectrum.

Q2: What changes do you think need to be made to the SRF to enable agencies to continue performing their federal missions without harmful interference from potential commercial uses of reallocated spectrum? In your view, could a reformed SRF allow for increases in non-federal uses of spectrum? Will you commit to carefully considering the perspectives raised by federal agencies and work to ensure spectrum decisions made by the FCC fully account for necessary steps to mitigate potential interference?

I believe the Spectrum Relocation Fund (SRF) is an important tool in the spectrum management process. I am aware of concerns from federal agencies regarding delays in accessing SRF resources and constraints on how the SRF monies can be used. I believe the SRF should be modernized to be a more effective tool in the spectrum management process. If confirmed, I commit to carefully considering the perspectives raised by federal agencies and working to ensure spectrum decisions account for necessary steps to mitigate potential interference.

Q3: How can the FCC coordinate with industry and other federal agencies to develop and incentivize the adoption of technologies that minimize harmful interference and increase flexible access to spectrum?

Answer: I believe that the FCC should coordinate with NTIA and consult with impacted federal agencies, through established mechanisms such as the Interdepartment Radio

Advisory Committee and the Commerce Spectrum Management Advisory Committee to ensure that spectrum management decisions, including auctions, are informed by economic and national security analysis and incentivize the adoption of technologies that minimize harmful interference and increase flexible access to spectrum.

Data Privacy and Cybersecurity

Breaches such as Salt Typhoon demonstrate the need for increased preventive and corrective cybersecurity measures. In the past, the FCC has pursued consent decrees with companies to resolve investigations over data breaches. Data breaches can cause harmful exposure of consumers' data and cyber attacks can damage key communications services.

Q4: In what specific ways could the FCC further incentivize measures to increase resiliency across the communications sector from data breaches and cybersecurity attacks? To date, do you believe the FCC's pursuit of consent decrees has been sufficient? Should the FCC consider new rulemakings to encourage enhanced protections from cyberattacks and data breaches?

If confirmed, I will promote the adoption of Open RAN technologies, which can help strengthen and diversify the Nation's telecommunications supply chain and increase resiliency across the communications sector from data breaches and cybersecurity attacks.

I believe the FCC should increase transparency into enforcement actions, to the extent possible, to ensure that consent decrees improve compliance, deterrence, and lead to a faster resolution of rule violations.

To enhance network protections from cyberattacks and data breaches, I believe the FCC needs to work with federal partners to ensure telecommunications providers have the tools and resources they need to defend their networks against malicious cyber threat actors. This includes working with telecommunications providers to improve their cyber hygiene to counter increasingly sophisticated and hostile cyber threat actors. I also believe the FCC should participate in ongoing whole-of-government conversations about how to improve the efficacy of the United States' deterrence efforts against nation state actors, which can further protect our Nation's networks from cyberattacks and data breaches.

Direct to Cell

Reliable communications can be a lifeline in a public safety emergency or while exploring the great outdoors across the mountains of Colorado. Last month, the FCC approved rules for expanding cellular coverage for cellphones outside of cell tower range using satellite communications. In a remote environment, direct to cell service could help enhance public safety and save lives.

Q5: If confirmed, what will your priorities be to enhance the reliability and accessibility of public safety communications services? What future improvements do you see in the field of direct to cell services?

If confirmed, I commit to working with Congress and interested stakeholders to improve back-up power solutions and promote the hardening of communications infrastructure to enhance the reliability and accessibility of public safety communications services. I would also advocate for more accurate, timely, and accessible information in the FCC's Disaster Information Reporting System.

Some future improvements in direct-to-cell services could include broader device capability with these services, more support for 911 or location tracking capabilities during emergencies or disasters, and wider geographic coverage.

Telecom Supply Chain

In order for us to succeed in our efforts to connect every American to high-speed and affordable broadband, we need reliable, secure, and readily-available supply of infrastructure network equipment.

Q6: What role should the FCC play in continuously monitoring and strengthening supply chains to support our existing and future communications networks? Do you believe the FCC should receive more voluntary notifications, on a timely basis, from the private sector about potential shortages of network equipment that could impede the timely completion of broadband infrastructure projects funded by the FCC?

I believe that transparency into the health and resilience of the Nation's telecommunications supply chain is vital to the FCC's continued ability to close the digital divide and strengthen network security. Voluntary notifications from the private sector about potential equipment shortages could help the FCC quickly address such shortages and ensure the timely completion of broadband projects.

SENATOR LISA BLUNT ROCHESTER (D-DE)

1. Should consumer protection be a top FCC priority?

If confirmed, protecting consumers is among my top priorities. I believe that protecting consumers is critical to the FCC's mission in making communications services available to all Americans.

2. Ms. Trusty, do you think federal workers at the FCC are crucial for advancing consumer transparency?

FCC staff are critical to carrying out the mission of the agency in expanding access to communications services, advancing consumer transparency, and upholding and enforcing the law.

3. Last year, the FCC introduced “broadband nutrition labels” to show what ISPs charge. However, potential federal staffing or funding cuts could jeopardize this and similar initiatives.

Ms. Trusty, for consumer transparency purposes, will you commit to defending the broadband nutrition label program if it, and programs like it, face cuts?

In accordance with the bipartisan Infrastructure, Investment, and Jobs Act, the FCC has a responsibility to establish rules requiring the display of broadband consumer labels (also referred to as the “broadband nutrition label program”). If confirmed, I commit to uphold and enforce these rules – or any successor rules – in accordance with the law.

4. What concrete measures would you implement to improve telehealth access and quality for underserved Americans?

If confirmed, I commit to coordinating with federal partners to better target broadband funds to underserved areas to provide improved support for telehealth-enabling infrastructure. I also commit to promoting the use of the FCC's special temporary authority to experiment with expanding access to telehealth initiatives.

5. Ms. Trusty, what additional policy reforms or actions should the FCC pursue to ensure broadband deployment is strategically targeted to underserved communities?

If confirmed, I would work to increase broadband connectivity in rural areas by doing the following: coordinating with other federal agencies with broadband programs to eliminate program fragmentation and duplication across the federal government and ensure federal resources are better targeted to unserved areas; remove regulatory barriers that impede or increase the cost of deploying broadband to rural areas; embrace new technologies such as satellite broadband or fixed wireless services that can provide a more cost effective solution in expanding connectivity to rural, unserved areas; and consider adjustments to USF programs to better target resources to unserved communities.