

**Statement of Olivia Trusty, Nominee to be Commissioner
at the Federal Communications Commission**

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and members of the Committee. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated and I thank President Trump for this opportunity. I also thank my family for their love and support.

Growing up in a large family with five sisters and one brother, I was taught early on about the value of service. Through my parents' daily actions, they emphasized the importance of helping others, whether through small acts or larger commitments. As I have grown older, I have credited my parents' example to the example set by my paternal and maternal grandfathers – George Preston Trusty, Sr. and Ernest Dewitt Powell, Jr. Both of whom served our country in World War II and the Korean War, respectively. Although my grandfathers came from different backgrounds, they shared a common commitment to defending this country and protecting the values we all hold dear. What brings me here today is my desire to continue the shared commitment to public service and love of country that has been in my family for generations.

When I first moved to Washington, DC nearly twenty years ago after graduating from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, I began my career in the public policy office of a telecommunications company. This is where I was introduced to universal service principles and the critical mission of the FCC. During that time, I saw first-hand how access to modern communications services, particularly for Americans living in rural and remote areas, could change lives. I also learned the value of a simple internet connection: it not only gives communities the ability to stay connected with loved ones, but it opens the door to education, jobs, economic opportunities, and so much more. Indeed, it allows Americans to participate fully in society and an ever-expanding global digital economy.

Following my time in the private sector, I have had the opportunity to work in the House of Representatives and in this hallowed chamber on telecommunications, technology, consumer protection, and, most recently, national security. All of these policy areas are core to the FCC's mission to make available affordable, high-speed, reliable, and secure communications services.

In carrying out this mission, it is not lost on me that the problem set facing the Commission is vast and diverse. The agency must contend with unforgiving geographic landscapes to achieve universal connectivity; it must stay ahead of sophisticated illegal robocallers defrauding and scamming vulnerable populations like our youth and seniors; it must work with federal partners to defend the security of our communications networks from the attacks of nation state actors; and it must work collaboratively with private and public sector interests to ensure that the United States leads the world in next-generation communications. Notwithstanding these issues, given my unique experiences working on both this distinguished committee and the Armed Services

Committee, as well as the dedication and expertise of FCC staff, I believe these challenges can be overcome.

In that spirit, I would like offer a short list of commitments on which I hope there is bipartisan consensus. If confirmed, I will work with Congress and the Administration to:

- Expand access to affordable, high-speed internet services for all Americans;
- Protect consumers from illegal robocalls;
- Strengthen the security of the Nation's telecommunications' networks; and
- Restore America's leadership in next-generation communications technologies.

Mr. Chairman, thank you, again, for holding this hearing and I look forward to answering any questions.