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United States Senate
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON, DC 20510–6125
WEBSITE: https://commerce.senate.gov

November 16, 2026

Senator Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz:

Following the recent elections, which returned control of both chambers of Congress to the Democrats, we strongly oppose the nomination of Danielle Thumann Severs, a Republican, to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), without the renomination of current Democratic Commissioner Anna Gomez and the nomination of another Democrat. There is no mandate for the outgoing majority to rush through a partisan FCC nomination in its final weeks. As such, we request the removal of Ms. Thumann Severs' nomination from the Executive Session agenda scheduled for November 18, 2026. Ms. Thumann Severs' nomination should be postponed until the next Congress and paired with Commissioner Gomez's renomination and the nomination of an additional Democratic commissioner.

In January, Democrats will hold the Senate majority and will set the Commerce Committee's agenda, including the pace at which nominations move. The Administration will have additional nominees for agencies and departments within the Committee's jurisdiction over the next two years, and confirming them will require the cooperation of the incoming majority. Pairing this nomination with Commissioner Gomez's renomination and a nominee for the seat vacated by former Commissioner Geoffrey Starks would allow the Committee to begin the new Congress with the bipartisan approach to nominations that has served both parties. In fact, the President has recognized the benefits of bipartisan nominations to other agencies within the jurisdiction of this Committee, renominating Democrats to seats on the National Transportation Safety Board and the Surface Transportation Board earlier this year. And last week, the President nominated Democrats to open seats on the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

At last week's Committee hearing, Senate Democrats voiced concerns about Ms. Thumann Severs's close relationship with FCC Chairman Carr and how that would impact her support for Chairman Carr's controversial policies, some of which you have opposed as well.

As you wrote in 2014, controversial nominees "should not be confirmed in the lame duck session of Congress by senators who just lost their seats and are no longer accountable to the voters."[1] We agree.

We therefore request that you remove the nomination of Ms. Thumann Severs from the Executive Session agenda scheduled for November 18, 2026. We believe her nomination, or any Republican nominee to the FCC, should be paired with the renomination of Commissioner Anna Gomez, and the nomination of another Democrat to the open seat of former Commissioner Starks.

Thank you for your consideration of this pressing matter.

Sincerely,

Maria Cantwell
United States Senator
Ranking Member, Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Ben Ray Luján
United States Senator

Amy Klobuchar
United States Senator

Brian Schatz
United States Senator

Edward J. Markey
United States Senator

Gary C. Peters
United States Senator

[1] Sens. Cruz and Lee, AG Nominee Should Say Whether She Approves of Executive Amnesty (Nov. 8, 2014), https://www.cruz.senate.gov/newsroom/press-releases/sens-cruz-and-lee-ag-nominee-should-say-whether-she-approves-of-executive-amnesty.

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United States Senator

Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator

Jacky Rosen
United States Senator

John Hickenlooper
United States Senator

John Fetterman
United States Senator

Andy Kim
United States Senator

Lisa Blunt Rochester
United States Senator

CC: The Honorable John Thune, Majority Leader, United States Senate