

**CONCURRING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *In the Matter of Amendment of the Schedule of Application Fees Set Forth in Sections 1.1102 through 1.1109 of the Commission's Rules*, MD Docket No. 20-270, Order.

Every two years, the FCC is required to adjust fees the agency charges to process applications in order to keep pace with the Consumer Price Index (CPI). These application fees are paid by stakeholders in various industries the FCC oversees—including broadcasters, space and satellite companies, wireless licensees, and wireline providers. Congress first required the FCC to collect these fees in a 1986 law that was amended by the RAY BAUM's Act of 2018. The law does not provide the FCC with much discretion in terms of how these fees are assessed. That brings us to the Order before us.

Over the past few years, the rise in CPI due to inflation has been hitting Americans in their pocket books. Indeed, since the FCC last adjusted its application fees in 2022, the CPI has increased by 17.41%. Accordingly, the Order we adopt today reflects an inflation bump of 17.41%. Overall, this means some applications now cost hundreds, or in some cases, thousands of dollars more than they did just a few years ago. It is difficult to support what is ultimately a direct tax increase on startups and other job creators at a time when they are already battling rising costs from inflationary policies. As noted earlier, however, the FCC does not have much of a choice here given the law. So I will be voting to concur.

I thank staff from the Office of Managing Director for preparing this item for a Commission vote.