BRIAN BABIN, D.D.S., Texas
CHAIRMAN

ZOE LOFGREN, California
RANKING MEMBER

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE, SPACE, AND TECHNOLOGY
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July 21, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street N.E.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Carr:

We write to urge the Commission to postpone its consideration of the "Space Modernization for the 21st Century" Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the "R&O")[1] to confine its regulations to the authority Congress has granted the FCC regarding radiofrequency communications licensing for private space systems.

In February 2026, the bipartisan leadership of the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology sent a letter expressing serious concerns about the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking on "Space Modernization for the 21st Century."[2] We attach a copy of that letter for reference. We did not receive a response to that letter, or outreach of any kind from the Commission, and the concerns we identified in our February letter remain. Nevertheless, the Commission is now proceeding with its consideration of the R&O, scheduled for Wednesday, July 22, 2026.

This Committee has jurisdiction over "outer space, including exploration and control thereof," and we send letters such as these with the intent of action. We seek to establish

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[1] Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Space Modernization for the 21st Century", SB Docket No. 25-306, FCC-CIRC2607-02 (rel. July 1, 2026), https://docs.fcc.gov/public/attachments/DOC-422740A1.pdf (hereinafter "R&O").

[2] The Committee's February 2026 letter is available at: https://republicans-science.house.gov/_cache/files/a/6/a668ae60-5b49-4c53-b8b7-6a1bdfd8ac34/742991E8C328C631D7315F22A966B3E5D88D5C804B3550CB284A72671EA5BD2A.house-science-committee---letter-to-fcc-chairman-carr.pdf ; Federal Communications Commission, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, "Space Modernization for the 21st Century", SB Docket No. 25-306, FCC-25-69 (rel. October 29, 2025) 90 Fed. Reg. 56338, available at: https://www.fcc.gov/document/space-modernization-21st-century-nprm.

dialogue, exchange information, and revisit our respective roles and authorities. The Commission's failure to respond is not only disappointing—it is unacceptable. In the absence of responsive action, constructive dialogue, and a meaningful exchange of information on this matter, we must consider all appropriate legislative and oversight tools available to us.

Sincerely,

Brian Babin
Chairman
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

Zoe Lofgren
Ranking Member
House Committee on Science, Space, and Technology

cc: Commissioner Anna M. Gomez
Commissioner Olivia Trusty