

**STATEMENT OF
ANNA GOMEZ
NOMINEE TO THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION**

Good morning, Chair Cantwell, Ranking Member Cruz, and members of the Committee. It is a tremendous honor to be nominated and I would like to thank President Biden for this opportunity. I would also like to thank my life partner, Kirk Burgee, for his unflagging support.

I have been working in telecommunications for close to 30 years, more than half of that time serving in government in various capacities from the FCC, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration, the White House, and—briefly—this very committee.

Public service is a special calling. A desire to give back and serve my community was instilled in me at a young age.

My father is an immigrant. My mother, who passed away over twenty years ago, was a dentist. My brother is a computer programmer. Growing up, we moved frequently for my dad's job. But after he was laid off and tried to start something on his own, we lost everything. We struggled, like so many families, to stretch the dollar and cut where we could. We did not have money to afford my college tuition, so I worked, borrowed, and paid my way through college and law school. After working briefly at a law firm, when the opportunity arose to serve as an attorney advisor at the FCC, I jumped at the chance. Little did I know that the three decades of experience that followed would lead me here, speaking before you as a nominee.

I have been an effective leader throughout my career, serving in government for the majority of my career, and believe I can contribute positively, with all consumers in mind, to the FCC's agenda. And serving in the private sector, including most recently at a law firm, has helped me understand the importance of vibrant competition and enabling innovation – for all parties, not just incumbents.

Given my broad government experience effectively crafting and implementing telecommunications policy, I would be strategic, decisive, and passionate in representing consumers and the public interest.

The Federal Communications Commission sits at the forefront of technology and innovation. The FCC has never been more relevant and instrumental in our daily lives. Digital life touches every aspect of our work, our education, our health care, and so much more. It also can create unbounded opportunity for those who have it while at the same time, be a locked door to the futures of those without it.

I believe the FCC does best when its work honors the needs of the people it serves. That means connecting everyone everywhere to affordable, reliable internet. While Congress has given the FCC many important tools to close the digital divide, there is still much work to be done to ensure that every person in every community, regardless of geography or income, has access to high-speed broadband. I have experienced the fear of not being able to afford a telephone bill. I know what it means to risk the loss of connection. Ensuring that everyone in rural, tribal, suburban, and urban communities can get and *stay* connected is critical to next-century success for us all.

This also means ensuring our first responders can communicate in times of crisis. My years of working with public safety have given me an appreciation of their unique—and vital—communications needs.

It also means ensuring our connections are secure and resilient. As we build out new networks and deploy a once-in-a-generation level of broadband support to states, it is critical that we shore up our networks so that governments, public safety officials, institutions, and consumers can trust that the information we send and receive is protected.

We must be vigilant about protecting consumers. From spam calls and scam texts to ensuring the internet is open and that we can go where we want online without limits, consumers' interests must lead our policymaking. As a Latina American, I hope to have the opportunity to bring my perspective to the Commission on ways to address the needs of all communities – including the Latino community.

We must continue to foster innovation by adopting a spectrum strategy to meet today *and* tomorrow's needs. This will ensure our technological leadership continues on a global stage. Managing the nation's airwaves is always complex given how intertwined they are with innovation and economic growth in the global economy. Spectrum enables many services on which Americans rely every day, like mobile broadband, remote learning, communicating on airplanes and ships,

and GPS. If confirmed I look forward to working with all stakeholders, including other federal agencies, to cement our leadership in 5 and 6G technologies.

If confirmed, it would be an honor to serve in this role. If confirmed, I pledge to listen and work with this Committee and with Congress. If confirmed, I pledge to be guided by the law, stakeholders, and above all, the American people.

Thank you.