Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

October 29, 2026

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
U.S. Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Thune and Chairman Cruz:

As members of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce, which holds direct jurisdiction over the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), we write to urge that any new Republican nominee to the Commission be paired with the nomination of a qualified Democratic commissioner, including the renomination of Commissioner Anna M. Gomez to a full term.

The Communications Act limits how many commissioners may belong to one political party, ensuring that decisions on broadband, media ownership, and network security are tested by more than one point of view. Preserving that balance is central to how the Commission is meant to function.

Commissioner Gomez has brought independent judgment and a clear command of the FCC's statutory responsibilities to her work, and has consistently engaged with members on both sides of the aisle on the merits of an issue rather than its politics. She has remained focused on many of the core responsibilities that Congress has entrusted to the FCC: closing the digital divide, protecting consumers, promoting competition and innovation, strengthening the security of our communications networks, and advancing U.S. technological leadership.

She has been a strong advocate for ensuring every community can access reliable and affordable broadband. High-speed internet is no longer a luxury. It is how Americans work, learn, access health care, and stay connected. Commissioner Gomez has consistently recognized that closing the digital divide requires addressing both where broadband is available and whether families can afford to connect.

At the same time, Commissioner Gomez has brought valuable leadership to spectrum policy at a moment when global competition is accelerating. Her experience leading U.S. preparations for the 2023 World Radiocommunication Conference gives her a valuable understanding of how domestic spectrum decisions affect America's technological competitiveness and how to navigate international negotiations. Commissioner Gomez has supported efforts to make additional spectrum available for innovative uses and strengthen America's position in the technologies shaping our economic and national security.

Additionally, the FCC's licensing and enforcement authority over broadcasters carries real constitutional limits, and Commissioner Gomez has taken that seriously, defending editorial independence and speaking out when she believed that authority was being stretched beyond its proper role.

She has likewise worked to address serious threats to the security and resilience of American communications networks, including cyber threats from foreign adversaries. These national security challenges demand sustained attention from commissioners with a deep understanding of both communications policy and the rapidly evolving threat environment.

We will not agree with every commissioner on every issue. That is precisely why Congress established a multi-member commission with meaningful representation from both parties. Robust disagreement, independent judgment, and deliberation strengthen the Commission's decision-making and provide an important check when the FCC considers policies with far-reaching implications for consumers, competition, and constitutional freedoms.

The Commission functions as intended only when both parties have a seat at the table. Confirming an additional Republican nominee without also securing continued Democratic representation would upset that balance.

Commissioner Gomez has shown the experience and judgment to continue that work. We therefore ask that the Senate pair any new Republican nominee with her renomination to a full term, consistent with the bipartisan design Congress built into this agency.

We appreciate your attention to this request and welcome the opportunity to discuss it further.

Sincerely,

Doris O. Matsui
Member of Congress, Communications and Technology

Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress

Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress

Kathy Castor
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Diana DeGette
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Kevin Mullin
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Robert J. Menendez
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Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
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