

May 20, 2026

The Honorable Brendan Carr
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
45 L Street NE
Washington, DC 20554

RE: FCC Expansion of Covered List to Include Foreign-Made Routers

Dear Chairman Carr:

Our organizations represent thousands of manufacturers, retailers, and service providers who connect American communities nationwide along with internet-based service suppliers who depend on their customers having that connectivity. We write to express concern with the decision by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to add foreign-made consumer routers to the Covered List.¹

The business community shares the U.S. government's commitment to national security. Yet we are concerned that the FCC's decision to add all foreign-made routers to the Covered List broadly restricts a critical category of connectivity equipment without a clear path for consumers and businesses to gain reliable access to new, secure equipment.

The businesses our organizations represent and the hundreds of millions of American consumers who rely on affordable, reliable internet equipment every day will be irreparably affected by the Administration's decision not to authorize foreign-made consumer routers without obtaining a conditional approval. This additional step could delay the availability of the latest generation of routers, and put a strain on the broadband ecosystem. Without swift action to authorize updated, secure routers, the FCC's action will immediately diminish Americans' ability to access the internet in their homes and businesses.

Congress did not intend for the Secure and Trusted Networks Act to be used to ban entire product categories without a clear foreign adversary nexus. Imposing broad restrictions on all foreign produced routers treats all foreign countries – including allies and trading partners – as potential adversaries. This is significantly beyond the scope of the authorities granted to the FCC by Congress. Moreover, the action has a clear impact on American businesses by treating all U.S.-owned, invested or managed companies as de facto security risks merely by seeking to supply the U.S. market with products manufactured abroad. We

¹ The Covered List refers to the list of equipment and services that the FCC has determined "pose an unacceptable risk to the national security of the United States or the security and safety of United States persons." Secure and Trusted Communications Networks Act of 2019, Pub. L. No. 116-124, 133 Stat. 158 (2020) (codified as amended at 47 U.S.C. §§ 1601-1609) (Secure Networks Act); 47 CFR §§ 1.50002, 1.50003.

do not believe this is the type of conduct the Secure and Trusted Networks Act was intended to address.

The unprecedented scope of this action threatens to increase costs for American businesses and consumers, limit product choice, disrupt global supply chains, and undermine America's technology leadership and competitiveness. This decision is creating significant uncertainty for the American business community about the potential for the FCC to continue to expand the use of the Covered List to cover other foreign-made products.

In addition, we request that the FCC issue further guidance about the conditional approval process established to seek approval to market foreign-made routers in the United States. In particular, guidance about the security criteria the FCC factors into the process (other than location of manufacturing), and what specific technical risk that the FCC is aiming to address, would assist the business community in mitigating potential supply chain risks and addressing the concerns that gave rise to the FCC's action.

We believe national security risks related to technology are best addressed through narrow, risk-based measures developed in coordination with industry stakeholders. We urge the Administration to work with us to strengthen device security while preserving competition, affordability, and resilient supply chains.

Sincerely,

CEDIA

Coalition of Services Industries

Computer & Communications Industry Association

Information Technology Industry Council (ITI)

National Retail Federation

Retail Industry Leaders Association (RILA)

Software & Information Industry Association (SIIA)

TechNet

cc: The Honorable Pete Hegseth, Secretary of War
The Honorable Markwayne Mullin, Secretary of Homeland Security
The Honorable Marco Rubio, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs