September 10, 2026

The Honorable Ted Cruz
Chairman
Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Ranking Member
Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee
254 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington DC, 20510

Dear Chairman Cruz and Ranking Member Cantwell:

We write in strong support of the nomination of Danielle Thumann Severs to serve as a Commissioner for the Federal Communications Commission and respectfully urge the Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation to report her nomination favorably so the full Senate can move swiftly to confirm her.

Ms. Thumann Severs is exceptionally well qualified for this position. She has served two tours in the FCC Chairman's office, first as a Legal Advisor beginning in 2021 and now as Senior Counsel. She has deep expertise across her wide-ranging policy portfolio, spanning matters before the Wireline Competition Bureau, the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, and the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau. Between those tours she led state and local government relations for a nationwide communications infrastructure provider, and before entering public service she practiced communications law at Wilkinson Barker Knauer. She earned her bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and her J.D. cum laude from the Catholic University of America's Columbus School of Law. Few nominees bring both a command of the Commission's institutional record and firsthand knowledge of what it takes to permit, build, and maintain a network.

Throughout her tenure at the agency, she has been a leading architect of the durable, bipartisan work that makes for smart and lasting communications policy. She has demonstrated unique skill in shepherding agency proceeding and bringing together support from stakeholders across the political spectrum, including state and local officials of every stripe. Her focus on substance and results is what has earned her the trust of civil society, consumer groups, government officials, and companies across the communications landscape.

The following three areas of her record deserve particular emphasis:

Bridging The Digital Divide and Expanding Connectivity - Ms. Thumann Severs has been instrumental in advancing the Commission's Build America Agenda, promoting regulatory modernization, accelerating infrastructure deployment, and increasing the availability of high-speed broadband. She has substantial expertise and hands-on experience with the Commission's critical universal service policies. She has helped drive the Commission's work on network modernization to ensure that America's connectivity meets tomorrow's needs. In doing so, she has balanced the realities of changing technology with consumer protection, public safety, and investment incentives that exist.

Delivering for Consumers - With the Consumer and Governmental Affairs Bureau in her remit, Ms. Thumann Severs has helped drive the Commission's work against the fraud and abuse Americans encounter on their phones every day, including the agency's comprehensive approach to combatting illegal robocalls and texts, and continued enforcement against such traffic. She has paired that work with a disciplined review of rules that no longer serve the people they were written to protect. She has also brought a first principles approach to the agency's consumer protection and accessibility policies, allowing for the agency's rules to be modernized in a way that delivers value for American consumers without unnecessary expense for small businesses.

Empowering American Workers - Ms. Thumann Severs has worked directly with tower and fiber builders—many of them small, family-owned firms—on the permitting, siting, and infrastructure policies that determine whether crews have steady work and whether infrastructure actually gets built. She has supported the Commission's push to ensure that skilled, vetted, properly classified American crews build and maintain these networks, and that these workers are fairly compensated in line with the demands and hazards of the job.

The Commission is carrying an ambitious workload with two vacant seats. Confirming a Commissioner with Ms. Thumann Severs' experience, technical fluency, and proven ability to move consensus items across the finish line will help the agency further its mission.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge the Committee to report Ms. Thumann Severs' nomination favorably and encourage the Senate to confirm her promptly.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Todd Schlekeway
President & CEO
NATE: The Communications Infrastructure Contractors Association

Grant Spellmeyer
President and CEO
America's Communications Association

Rich Berliner
Owner and CEO
Connected Digital Infrastructure Association

Gary Bolton
President & CEO
Fiber Broadband Association

Chip Pickering
CEO
INCOMPAS (The Competitive Communications and AI Infrastructure Association)

Megan Nelson
Manager
NATE Wireless Industry Network (WIN)

Hon. Cory Gardner
President & CEO
NCTA – The Internet & Television Association

Michael R. Romano
Chief Executive Officer
NTCA-The Rural Broadband Association

Tim Wagner
President & CEO
Power & Communication Contractors Association

John Foley
Managing Director
Safer Buildings Coalition

Patrick Halley
President & CEO
Wireless Infrastructure Association

Derrick Owens
Senior Vice President of Government and Industry Affairs
WTA – Advocates for Rural Broadband