

Statement of Arielle Roth
Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information

Before the
U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, & Transportation

March 27, 2025

Chairman Cruz, Ranking Member Cantwell, and distinguished members of the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:

I am deeply humbled to testify before you today and grateful to President Trump for nominating me to serve our great nation as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information.

It is a particular honor to testify before the Senate Commerce Committee. I have tremendous respect for this committee's accomplished members, hardworking staff, and record of bipartisan work. Over the past four years, I have been fortunate to work for two esteemed public servants on this committee.

Chairman Cruz: working for you to advance economic growth, innovation, and the rule of law has been an extraordinary privilege.

Senator Blunt: thank you for your mentorship in pragmatism, bipartisanship, and civic virtue.

I have also had the honor of working for some of the most principled and respected experts in the telecom field: Former FCC Commissioners Harold Furchtgott-Roth and Mike O'Rielly and former Chief of the Wireline Competition Bureau, Kris Monteith.

Of course, none of these opportunities would have been possible without the support of my family. My parents, Dr. Mark and Peggy Rabinovitch, who are here today, instilled in me values of compassion, gratitude, humility, and perseverance.

My husband and soul mate, Yaakov, is the most incredible husband and father. Our children—Samson, Nina, Gefen, Rory, and Judah—are my life's greatest blessings, and I thank God every day for the privilege of being their mother.

I have experienced firsthand the incredible opportunities America has to offer. This country has given me, and countless others, the freedom to pursue our dreams, and build a better country for the next generation.

As a person of deep Jewish faith, it is moving to me to offer my testimony on the eve of Passover—the holiday in which we celebrate the triumph of freedom over tyranny. Our rabbis teach us that true liberation comes not just from physical freedom, but from spiritual freedom achieved through the pursuit of wisdom, education, and ethical action. It is in this spirit that I

dedicate myself to the service of our country and ensuring opportunity is accessible to all Americans.

For the past decade, I have been lucky to work on a special kind of access to opportunity—expanding access to high-speed Internet—and assist lawmakers dedicated to advancing innovation, promoting public safety, defending taxpayers, and protecting children online. It has been my privilege to work on bipartisan legislation like the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act with Senator Markey; the SAT Streamlining Act with Senator Rosen; the Low Power Protection Act with Senators Wyden and Klobuchar; and the Kids Off Social Media Act with Senator Schatz. If confirmed, I will bring this experience and my understanding of the policy challenges we face today to the work of NTIA.

One of the most pressing tasks ahead of us is ensuring that we finish the job of expanding broadband access to unserved communities. Thanks to Congress's historic, bipartisan investments in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, NTIA has a responsibility to ensure that these funds are spent efficiently, expeditiously, and consistent with the law as written by Congress. I look forward to working with members of Congress on both sides of the aisle to ensure that the BEAD program is a success and lives up to its bipartisan legacy.

I am also committed to harnessing the potential of our nation's spectrum resources while safeguarding national security. As the President's primary telecommunications and spectrum advisor, NTIA's leadership is pivotal in ensuring our nation's economic prosperity, technology leadership, and national security. NTIA also plays an important role in shaping U.S. positions before international standard-setting bodies, and it is essential that these decisions reflect U.S. interests.

I look forward to working with NTIA's distinguished career staff—from whom I've learned so much over the past few years—to advance these policies.

Finally, one of the most pressing communications issues facing our nation today is one that's close to home—how to protect children from online threats and excessive screen use. As a mother of five (God willing, soon to be six), I know firsthand what a struggle it can be to monitor and limit kids' internet and screen time. If confirmed as NTIA Administrator, I will look for ways to support the administration on addressing these challenges for parents and children.

I look forward to working closely with members of Congress, Commerce Secretary Lutnick, and other key stakeholders to advance these important policies, and I am eager to contribute to the continued growth and success of our nation's communications networks.

Thank you again for the opportunity to speak with you today. I am grateful for your consideration and look forward to answering your questions.