



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

February 20, 2024

The Honorable Karen Charles
Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Telecommunications and Cable
Chairwoman, North American Numbering Council
1000 Washington Street, Suite 600
Boston, MA 02110

Re: Call Authentication Trust Anchor Working Group

Dear Chairwoman Charles:

In September 2023, the Commission released a Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to strengthen the Commission's rules governing the process for direct access to numbers by interconnected voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) providers in order to help stem the tide of illegal robocalls, protect national security and law enforcement, safeguard the nation's finite numbering resources, reduce the opportunity for regulatory arbitrage, and further promote public safety.¹ The Wireline Competition Bureau (Bureau) acknowledges and thanks the North American Numbering Council (NANC) and the Call Authentication Trust Anchor (CATA) Working Group for their continued valuable work on these critical issues.

Consistent with the *Second Report and Order*,² the Bureau once again calls on the NANC to assist with these priorities. Specifically, we direct the NANC to issue a report, no later than **December 17, 2024** on foreign-originated calls and use of indirectly obtained numbers, as well as numbers supplied on a trial basis. We direct the NANC to address the following topics in its report:

- the use of numbers obtained on the secondary market in the United States;
- the use of U.S. North American Numbering Plan (NANP) numbers for calls that originate abroad and terminate in the U.S. market;
- the specific number usage restrictions already in place abroad, and on the likely effect of similar Commission action on providers, consumers, businesses, and illegal robocallers;
- the practice of direct access authorization holders supplying telephone numbers to customers on a trial basis;
- the use of such "trial basis" numbers to engage in illegal robocalling, spoofing, or fraud;
- the potential effect on direct access authorization holders in the event of a Commission prohibition on providing numbers on a trial basis; and
- the effect of supplying telephone numbers to customers on a trial basis on numbering resource exhaust.

¹ *Numbering Policies for Modern Communications et al.*, WC Docket No. 13-97 et al., Second Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 23-75 (rel. Sept. 22, 2023) (*Second Report and Order*).

² *Id.* at paras. 68-73. In a separate referral letter, the Commission is directing the NANC Numbering Administration Oversight Working Group (NAOWG) to examine certain other issues associated with number use by interconnected VoIP providers.

If you have questions about this referral, please contact Christi Shewman, the NANC's Designated Federal Officer, at christi.shewman@fcc.gov. We appreciate the NANC's commitment to ensuring the security and integrity of the telephone network, and its work to protect American consumers from fraud and deception.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Trent Harkrader". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first few letters.

Trent Harkrader
Chief
Wireline Competition Bureau