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**For Immediate Release**

**COMMISSIONER STARKS ON  
STATE AND LOCAL “STAY AT HOME” ORDERS**

WASHINGTON, March 20, 2020: Commissioner Geoffrey Starks issued the following statement regarding state and local “stay at home” orders:

“In support of their public health efforts, states are implementing increasingly strict orders to stop non-essential business and keep residents at home. Both California and New York have, consistent with the guidance of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, identified telecommunications as essential infrastructure that must be supported even as other activities are restricted. I encourage all state and local officials to adopt this approach. Around the country, dedicated teams are working under challenging circumstances to expand access to communications networks. That critical work must continue as long as it can be done safely. For the tens of millions of Americans on the wrong side of the digital divide, gaining access to school, work, and medical care in this difficult time depends on those efforts.”

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*