



Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

December 30, 2019

Mr. Alexander Hunt
Chief, Information Policy Branch
Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs
Office of Management and Budget
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Mr. Hunt:

The Federal Communications Commission (Commission) requests OMB approval to submit the information collection described herein under the “emergency processing” provision of the Paperwork Reduction Act (PRA) of 1995 (5 C.F.R. § 1320.13). The Commission is requesting clearance for a new information collection entitled: Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs. We respectfully request OMB approval for this collection by January 31, 2020.

On November 22, 2019, the Commission adopted a Report and Order, Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order, WC Docket No. 18-89, FCC 19-121 (*Protecting Against National Security Threats to the Communications Supply Chain Through FCC Programs*). The *Report and Order* prohibits future use of Universal Service Fund (USF) funds to purchase equipment or services from any communications equipment or service providers identified as posing a national security risk to communications networks or the communications supply chain. It also initially designates two entities – Huawei Technologies Company (Huawei) and ZTE Corporation (ZTE), along with their affiliates, subsidiaries, and parents – as covered companies posing such a national security threat. In the *Further Notice*, the Commission proposes to require eligible telecommunications carriers receiving USF support to remove and replace covered equipment and services from carriers’ networks. The *Further Notice* proposes to make the requirement to remove and replace covered equipment and services contingent on the availability of a funded reimbursement program, in an effort to mitigate the impact on affected entities. Thus, in the accompanying *Information Collection Order*, the Commission proposes to establish an information collection to determine the extent to which prohibited equipment exists in current networks, and the costs associated with removing such equipment and replacing it with equivalent equipment.

The Commission proposes to initiate this collection to gather information from eligible telecommunications carriers as to whether they own equipment or services from Huawei or ZTE, the cost to purchase and/or install such equipment or services, and the cost to remove and replace such equipment or services. In addition, respondents must demonstrate how they arrived at any cost estimates they provide in response to this information collection.

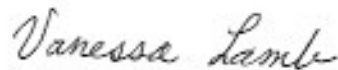
Requiring the Commission to seek OMB’s approval for this new collection under the regular PRA processing procedures would significantly delay the Commission’s efforts to address the serious and immediate risk to national security posed by Huawei and ZTE. The rules and related requirements adopted in the *Report and Order* are intended to promote expeditious removal of existing national security vulnerabilities in communications networks and their supply chains. The Commission also has a responsibility to ensure that the public funds in the USF are not spent on equipment or services from companies that present a risk to the communications supply chain. In order to promptly address these national security concerns and fulfill its statutory obligations, the Commission must determine the extent

to which prohibited equipment exists in current networks, and the feasibility of a funded reimbursement program to mitigate the cost of removing existing covered equipment and services from carriers' networks.

Due to the emergency nature of this request, the Commission is requesting a waiver of the requirement to publish a 60-day notice in the Federal Register. However, the Commission has published a 30-day notice in the Federal Register concerning this new information collection under the emergency processing procedures to give the public an opportunity to comment on this emergency submission. The Commission will conduct all the necessary regular submission requirements under the PRA after approval of this emergency request.

The Commission's staff is ready and eager to work with your PRA Desk Officer to immediately provide any additional information needed to assure OMB's approval of this emergency request by January 31, 2020.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Vanessa Lamb".

Vanessa Lamb
Acting, Managing Director
Office of Managing Director
Federal Communications Commission