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For Immediate Release**FCC VOTES TO ESTABLISH OFFICE OF ECONOMICS &
ANALYTICS*****Agency Will Formally Integrate Economics and Analytics Into Its Policymaking***

WASHINGTON, January 30, 2018—The Federal Communications Commission today voted to create an FCC Office of Economics and Analytics. This new unit will help ensure that economic analysis is deeply and consistently incorporated as part of the agency’s regular operations.

The Office of Economics and Analytics will use existing staff resources by bringing into one office FCC economists, attorneys, and data professionals who work on economic analysis, data policy and management, and research. In support of and in coordination with other FCC bureaus and offices, this new office will provide economic analysis for rulemakings, transactions, adjudications, and other Commission actions. It will manage the FCC’s auctions program, and it also will manage significant FCC data collections such as Form 477. It will develop policies and strategies to manage the FCC’s data resources and establish best practices for use throughout the agency. In addition, it will conduct long-term research on ways to improve the Commission’s policies and processes.

The new office will include four divisions: economic analysis, industry analysis, auctions, and data. The Economic Analysis Division will provide the Commission with analytical and quantitative support. The Industry Analysis Division will be the FCC’s principal resource for designing and administering significant, economically-relevant data collections. The Auctions Division will lead the agency’s work in auction design and implementation issues, including for spectrum and universal service auctions. The Data Division will help develop and implement best practices, processes, and standards for data management to meet the Commission’s needs.

This plan incorporates the proposals from a recent [staff report](#) by a working group which studied the idea of creating an office focused on economics. FCC staff worked for months to put forward a comprehensive report on how such an office would function, how best to integrate it into the FCC’s work, and how to implement such a plan. The agency will be eliminating the current Office of Strategic Planning and Policy Analysis and incorporating that team and other bureau and office staff into the new office.

Action by the Commission January 30, 2018 by Order (FCC 18-7). Chairman Pai, Commissioners O’Rielly and Carr approving. Commissioners Clyburn and Rosenworcel

dissenting. Chairman Pai, Commissioners Clyburn, O’Rielly, Carr and Rosenworcel issuing separate statements.

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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).

