

**WRITTEN STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER  
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Good morning Chairman Boucher, Ranking Member Stearns, and distinguished members of the Subcommittee. Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today and report on all of the important matters on which we are working at the Federal Communications Commission (Commission or FCC).

During my first six weeks at the Commission, I have had the opportunity to meet with its various bureaus and offices. I have been greatly impressed by the agency and the depth, talent, and dedication of our staff as we face the unprecedented challenges of the significant issues before us.

Chairman Genachowski gave an inspirational speech to the FCC staff on his first day. He stated that the promise of technology has never been brighter and, consequently, the obligations of the Commission have never been greater. I share that view. The FCC holds the keys to unleashing the power of broadband, the new media landscape, and true public safety interoperability. That responsibility is challenging, but the rewards will truly make a difference in the life and future of every American.

According to one metric, the communications industry constitutes one-sixth of our economy and is the foundation upon which the rest of it runs. A 21<sup>st</sup> Century communications infrastructure is essential for restoring sustained economic growth, opportunity, and prosperity. Congress has instructed the FCC to develop and implement a National Broadband Plan. This directive holds great promise for our nation and, as you have heard, we are hard at work on it.

Broadband has become critical infrastructure – the enabling technology for everything from the future of our children’s education, the next generation of health care, smart energy grid development, and true public safety interoperability. The FCC will play an important role in making sure that the right regulatory environment exists to create incentives for companies to build out infrastructure faster, to reward innovation and investment, and to encourage competition so that American consumers have access to, and can afford, the world’s most advanced telecommunications services. We are gathering the data to ensure that our recommendations are well informed.

I believe that we can reap great benefits from a more efficient, transparent, and flexible spectrum policy. The Spectrum Inventory bill, introduced and cosponsored by so many members of this Subcommittee, shows important leadership and is a first step to increasing wireless broadband use in innovative ways, such as secondary markets, leasing, and test beds. As many of you know from my previous position at NTIA, I think it is critical that we pursue policies that foster the efficient use of spectrum to promote continued innovation and investment in the wireless marketplace.

We plan to take a hard look at the means and tools to maximize spectral efficiency and optimize the use of the country’s bandwidth. I am pleased that the first vote that I cast at the Commission was to see what else we can do to promote innovation in the wireless sector. Further, this afternoon, we will have a broadband workshop on spectrum and, on Monday, I will host our first field hearing for the

National Broadband Plan – a spectrum hearing in Austin, Texas. I think it is imperative that we lay the foundation for wireless, the fastest growing sector of America’s broadband economy, to continue to flourish.

During the past weeks, I have had the pleasure of meeting with many of the members of this Subcommittee. I want to thank you for taking time out of your busy schedules to meet with me and share your thoughts on communications policy and the future of the FCC. I have learned a great deal about your respective views on the range of issues that affect your districts and constituents. I look forward to continuing our dialogue and to working together for the benefit of American consumers.

The FCC has a profound impact on what the American people see, hear, and read. Healthy competition can benefit consumers and, in many cases, can reduce the need for affirmative Commission action. However, the regulatory mandate of the FCC will remain an important one as our society continues to experience technological advancement in the communications sector. I take this responsibility very seriously, while working to promote the principles of investment, innovation, and competition for the benefit of all Americans.

In conclusion, it is a true honor to be serving at this important time with my four colleagues sitting with me at this table, with their wealth of experience and expertise. I would like to thank formerly-Acting Chairman Copps for reintroducing a collegial tone at the Commission, which Chairman Genachowski has continued to build upon. I look forward to working with them and Commissioners McDowell and Clyburn in taking actions that will have an extraordinary impact on the everyday lives of the American people. Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you, and I look forward to answering your questions.