

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: In the Matter of Universal Service Reform, Mobility Fund, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, *WT Docket No. 10-208*.

Approximately three years ago, my state colleagues on the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service recognized the importance of mobile wireless voice and data services for our nation. They called on the Commission to create a Mobility Fund in order to help support the construction of wireless facilities in unserved areas. The Commission staff heard that call, and in the National Broadband Plan recommended that we move forward with creating a Mobility Fund. As we know from our *14th Annual Mobile Wireless Report*, those areas that are currently unserved are largely rural and are the hardest to serve. Nonetheless, I believe it is critical that consumers, whether they live, work or travel in urban or rural areas, have access to mobile voice and data services. In fact, most Americans anticipate that their mobile devices will work no matter where they are. With this Fund, we have an opportunity to meet that expectation for some areas without 3G infrastructure.

I am pleased that this Commission is exploring how to provide necessary financial support in order to ensure that more Americans can benefit from mobile voice and data services. I support the detailed questions raised in this Notice on how to devise a Mobility Fund. I encourage the industry to work with our staff on the development of the Fund so that consumers can obtain the most benefits with the resources available. I want to thank the staff of both the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau and the Wireline Competition Bureau who worked diligently on the framework for this item, and the Chairman for his leadership on this issue.