

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
BEFORE THE  
UNITED STATES SENATE  
COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION  
“OVERSIGHT OF THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION”  
MAY 16, 2012**

Good afternoon, Chairman Rockefeller, Ranking Member Hutchison, and the distinguished Members of the Committee.

It is a great privilege to appear before you today. I was ceremonially sworn into office on Monday. My tenure at the agency has been limited. So it is in that spirit that I offer my remarks today. They will be brief.

There may be no sector of the economy more dynamic than communications. These are the technologies that support our commerce, connect our communities, and enhance our security. They are an essential part of how we educate, create, entertain, inform, and govern ourselves.

Yet technology changes at a blistering pace. So it is essential that the Commission approach its tasks with humility. It must have a healthy respect for the power of innovation to invert what we think we know.

Still, I believe that there are enduring values in the Communications Act that must always inform the Commission's work. Public safety is paramount. Universal service means that everyone in this country, no matter who they are or where they live, should have access to first-rate communications services. Competition inspires private sector investment and drives the development of more innovative services at lower cost. And consumer protection is always in the public interest.

In the weeks and months ahead, the Commission will have no shortage of challenging issues to address. The Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act tasked the agency with a series of spectrum auctions designed to ease the growing demand for this scarce resource. These include incentive auctions, which are undeniably complex. In years past, Commission auctions have raised \$50 billion for the United States Treasury. Its path-breaking auctions have led the world. I am confident that with the right mix of engineering and economics, with these new auctions the Commission can once again serve as a pioneer. Furthermore, if it follows the law, it can do so in a way that is fair to all stakeholders and will provide our first responders with the resources and nationwide interoperability that will help keep us safe.

For more than five years, I had the tremendous privilege of serving on the staff of this Committee. It is an honor to return to this room and sit at this table in my new role. From my time working for this body, I deeply understand that it is the duty of this agency to listen to the Congress and be responsible to the American people.

Thank you again for the opportunity to appear before you today. I would be happy to answer any questions you may have.