

**PREPARED STATEMENT OF FCC MIGNON L. CLYBURN  
ON THE AGREEMENT OF WIRELESS CARRIERS TO UNLOCK CELLPHONES  
DECEMBER 12, 2013**

I am pleased that CTIA, the four largest nationwide wireless carriers, and U.S. Cellular have voluntarily committed to pro-consumer cellphone unlocking policies. I especially commend those carriers that demonstrated leadership on this issue, by adopting cellphone unlocking policies, long before today's announcement. I am confident other wireless service providers will sign on to the agreement.

Wireless carriers should be able to enforce their valid customer contracts. But I also believe that the provisions in those contracts need to be grounded in common sense. Consumers, who satisfy the terms of their contracts, should not be subject to civil and criminal penalties if they want to take their device to a new carrier.

Earlier this year, 114,000 people spoke loudly when they signed a petition asking the White House to legalize cellphone unlocking, demonstrating that this issue is too important to consumers for us to not find a solution. That is why, in August of this year, I issued a statement calling on FCC staff, the wireless industry, and other stakeholders to redouble their efforts toward an industry wide cellphone unlocking solution that best serves the public interest.

I applaud Chairman Wheeler for sending a letter that emphasized his support for a policy that included the consumer's right to be informed about unlocking eligibility. It was also great to see that the industry additionally committed to unlock phones sold to prepaid customers no later than one year after initial activation, consistent with reasonable usage requirements.

I want to thank Michael Janson and Pramesh Jobanputra for the presentation.