

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN

Re: *Amendment of the Commission's Rules Concerning Market Modification, Implementation of Section 102 of the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014*, MB Docket No. 15-71.

With this *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, we are taking the first step toward ensuring that customers of satellite television operators are able to watch the local programming that matters to them the most. Through the STELA Reauthorization Act of 2014, Congress gave the FCC tools to tackle the problem of so-called "Orphan Counties," or situations in which satellite customers are unable to view television stations in their home State because of the boundaries set by Nielsen Designated Market Areas.

The STELAR gives us the flexibility to adjust these boundaries, where warranted, through "market modifications." And once we adopt rules in this proceeding, we will be able to eliminate "Orphan Counties" in response to petitions filed by broadcasters or satellite operators. In addition, we will be able to address other situations in which satellite customers are unable to receive local news, public affairs, emergency weather coverage, hometown sports or other local broadcast programming most relevant to them. I am pleased that we are implementing this statutory provision in a conscientious and thorough manner.

This proceeding will promote regulatory parity between cable and satellite operators, while allowing us to account for the unique technical and economic aspects of satellite television service. In the current media landscape, there is no logical reason why we can modify the local market of a cable operator, but not that of a satellite operator. This *NPRM* begins the process of eliminating this outdated disparity, and it has my support.