

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON CLYBURN**

Re: *Promoting Spectrum Access for Wireless Microphone Operations; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions*, GN Docket No. 14-166, GN Docket No. 12-268.

When there is a crisis, we look for sources of breaking news. Decades ago, that might have been limited to an evening television news program or the radio. Today, we have far more options to keep us informed: Ultra-high-definition TV, a tablet, or smart phone with signals being delivered over licensed spectrum, Wi-Fi or fiber.

Regardless of what collection of services and technologies we use to get the news, there is a good chance someone with a wireless microphone is on the other end. They are one of the unsung elements of the newsgathering business. And wireless microphones are not just for news: sporting events, live concerns, theaters and film studios all rely on wireless mics to provide critical flexibility and high-quality audio.

Wireless microphones rely on the unused portions of the TV spectrum and our recent actions, including our actions today to repurpose portions of the television band for wireless services, have resulted in changes for the wireless microphone community.

So this item is important to the wireless microphone community – and, by extension, to all of us – because it takes several steps to address the long-term needs of the users of wireless mics. It starts with making additional spectrum available for wireless microphones. We are allowing wireless microphones to operate on three new bands. We are revising our rules promote greater use of the television band by permitting more sharing and allowing more wireless mics to use the band. And we are taking steps to help smooth the transition for wireless users out of the TV spectrum that has been repurposed for wireless services.

With so many possible uses for limited spectrum, we are often faced with difficult decisions on how to balance competing uses. With these changes, I am confident that we will be able to protect the long-term needs of the wireless microphone community, even as we repurpose the television bands.

I thank the Office of Engineering and Technology and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau for their hard work throughout this proceeding.