

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Amendment of Parts 1 and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to the Cellular Service, Including Changes in Licensing of Unserved Areas, WT Docket No. 12-40, RM No. 11510; Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Relocation of Part 24 to Part 27; Interim Restrictions and Procedures for Cellular Service Applications; Amendment of Parts 0, 1, and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Frequency Coordination for the Cellular Service; Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Radiated Power Limits for the Cellular Service, RM No. 11660; Amendment of Parts 1, 22, 24, 27, 74, 80, 90, 95, and 101 to Establish Uniform License Renewal, Discontinuance of Operation, and Geographic Partitioning and Spectrum Disaggregation Rules and Policies for Certain Wireless Radio Services, WT Docket No. 10-112; 2016 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations, WT Docket No. 16-138*

During our #ConnectingCommunities Tour last year, I heard first-hand from students, entrepreneurs, healthcare providers, and others, about the opportunities and challenges of bringing robust, affordable communications services to their communities.

No matter where I travelled, consumers of wireless services made it clear that they expected to have robust and continuous mobile connectivity where they live, work, and when they have time, play. With the notable exception of large swaths of Tribal lands in New Mexico and Arizona, those expectations were largely being met.

As consumers' insatiable consumption of mobile data services continues, it behooves us to ensure that our regulatory framework keeps up with the ever evolving wireless landscape, and that our policies promote, rather than thwart, continued investment in new wireless services.

With today's item, the Commission takes an important step to provide Cellular band licensees increased flexibility and much needed consistency in licensing across commercial wireless services. Notably, the Commission revises the radiated power rules for the Cellular band, while safeguarding public safety operations from possible increased interference because of these changes. The rules adopted in the *Orders* and proposed in the *Further Notice* will no doubt assist wireless carriers in their efforts to keep up with the expected sevenfold increase in mobile data traffic over the next five years. But what we also make clear, is that the agency will continue to protect important public safety operations, and help facilitate stakeholder discussions.

Many thanks to this team and the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, for working to move away from outdated paradigms and facilitate ubiquitous connectivity in wireless services.