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**For Immediate Release**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL  
CALLING ON FCC TO STUDY HURRICANE HARVEY'S IMPACT ON  
COMMUNICATIONS INFRASTRUCTURE**

WASHINGTON, September 5, 2017. — As we begin to assess Harvey's horrible toll on human life and property, we will need to take stock of what worked, what didn't, and how we can improve when it comes to our communications infrastructure. In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, I accompanied Commissioner Michael Copps when Chairman Kevin Martin invited him along to survey the devastation along the Gulf Coast. The memories of that day—both the scope of the damage and the commitment to rebuilding—are forever burned in my mind. So I am heartened that while the Chairman is in Texas today he will spend some time inspecting the destructive impact of this storm.

As we have done in disasters in the past, the Commission will need to study this hurricane and issue a report. That report must include a full plan for fixing the vulnerabilities that we are finding—from overloading 911 systems to out-of-service cell sites. It should also include a framework for rebuilding so that the communities that have been impacted are not permanently relegated to the wrong side of the digital divide. Above all, we need to get started. We don't have time to waste—because we know that weather emergencies can occur anywhere at any time—and learning from what happened with Harvey can help strengthen our communications networks and save lives.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*