

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Revisions to Reporting Requirements Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets*, WT Docket No. 17-228

This item shows what I would call good, outside-the-Beltway thinking. When it comes to small businesses, D.C. has had a tendency to pile on just one more reporting obligation, one additional fee, or merely a little more red tape. Far too often, these actions are taken with no consideration for the actual and cumulative burden that these regulations impose.

Over the years, the FCC has been no exception. A coalition that represents small and rural broadband providers recently explained that our reporting obligations alone now consume 23 weeks of work per year or five months of full-time labor. I've heard these same concerns when I've met with small wireless providers. They talk about having to take one of the few people they employ off of a customer service job or marketing effort or even a broadband deployment project and train them to complete and submit FCC paperwork. These small businesses are not corporate behemoths. They do not have, and simply cannot afford, an army of regulatory lawyers. It strikes them that a lot of this paperwork is unnecessary. And I agree. If we can eliminate these reporting burdens, small businesses can focus even more on competing, growing their businesses, and serving consumers.

Today's Notice takes a small and welcome step toward this goal. We are seeking comment on whether we can exempt small wireless providers from a HAC reporting obligation while continuing to ensure that consumers and the FCC have access to all necessary information. I am glad that we are taking this step. And I am pleased that it is part of a broader trend at the agency. This is a Commission that has been working to reduce unnecessary regulatory burdens on small businesses. So this item and this effort have my support.