

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: FCC Response to Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria

Let me begin by once again offering my thoughts and prayers to all of those impacted by these most recent horrific storms. It is truly unimaginable the level of devastation that has taken place, but times like these remind us how important it is for us to come together and help each other to rebuild and heal.

During my visit to South Florida last week with the Chairman, we witnessed incredible levels of compassion and commitment to helping neighbors be they around the corner or in other hard-hit sections of the state. We listened to stories from broadcasters, telecommunications providers, first responders, the FCC field staff, and others who worked around the clock, risking their own safety, leaving their own vulnerable households so that the broader community would have a means to stay informed, keep in touch with family and friends and have some semblance of normalcy.

The integrity of our communications networks is key in the rebuilding process, and if there is a faint silver lining in all of this, it can be found in the lessons learned and applied in the rebuilding of what will be more resilient systems. Super Storm Sandy spurred the Commission to adopt technology transitions protections, and those remain as relevant now as they were then. As carriers rip out flooded copper, we must ensure that consumers are part of the process and have clear understanding and expectation regarding service restoration.

I am grateful for the advanced preparations taken by the Commission staff, including reaching out to public safety agencies in the areas impacted, identifying necessary resources, and deploying teams for communication needs.

Turning the lessons from this detailed presentation into policies that ensure our nation's communications networks and 9-1-1 systems remain reliable and resilient during disasters is one of the greatest gifts we can deliver to our neighbors in need. I am confident our staff will continue to do everything possible to support these communities in the days, weeks, and months to come.