STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR

Re: Spectrum Horizons, ET Docket No. 18-21; James Edwin Whedbee Petition for Rulemaking to Allow Unlicensed Operation in the 95-1,000 GHz Band, RM-11795 (proceeding terminated).

One reason the U.S. leads the world in wireless is that we’ve moved quickly to open up new spectrum bands for innovative uses. We don’t wait around for technologies to develop fully before unlocking spectrum so that entrepreneurs have the incentives to invest and experiment. You can see it with our steps in the 1980s to identify unlicensed spectrum, which years later allowed Wi-Fi to flourish. You can see it in the early 2000s when we freed up spectrum above 40 GHz, which is commonly used today for vehicle radar and other technologies. And you can see it when we opened up millimeter wave spectrum back when many still doubted that it could support 5G.

We continue this trend today by giving entrepreneurs greater access to spectrum above 95 GHz, which is already home to a number of pioneering technologies. This will help ensure that innovators in the U.S. have the incentives to invest and develop new technologies for the benefit of all Americans.

It took a lot of hard work from the FCC teams in the Office of Engineering and Technology, the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, and the International Bureau to get this order across the finish line. So I want to thank you for developing today’s Order. It has my support.