

**REMARKS OF
FCC CHAIRWOMAN JESSICA ROSENWORCEL
NATIONAL SPECTRUM STRATEGY
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You do not have to look very hard to see that wireless technology is remaking our world. You see it in the way we rely on the phones in our palms, pockets, and purses. You see it in the internet connections between people and things that are multiplying around us. Plus, there are a growing number of systems for inventory management, payments, imaging, security, resource monitoring and more that count on our airwaves every day.

The invisible infrastructure that powers this new wireless world is spectrum. The demands on this infrastructure are growing at a breakneck pace as wireless technology expands and transforms so much in our economy and modern life. All of this means that how we divvy up spectrum and divide the use of this scarce resource is important. Making smart choices about its distribution are vital if we want wireless technology to continue to grow.

These choices are not always easy. The tools we have for allocating and repurposing spectrum between and among users are constrained by the rules of law and limited by the rules of physics. We face competing demands on our airwaves from federal users and non-federal users alike. But in the United States we have always found a way. In fact, this country has long been a global leader in innovative spectrum policy because when the going gets tough, we get creative. You see this over and over again.

In fact, you see it throughout history at the Federal Communications Commission. The agency was the first in the world to use auctions to modernize the distribution of licensed airwaves. We were the first in the world to develop incentive auctions, a Nobel-prize-winning idea that uses market mechanisms to repurpose old airwaves for new commercial uses, and, using this tool, we were able to reorganize broadcast spectrum and reallocate it for first responders and mobile broadband. We also were the first to take scraps of our airwaves that were considered “garbage bands” and develop unlicensed spectrum—which supports the airwaves we know and use every day as Wi-Fi. Today, this creativity continues with our development of spectrum policies that combine terrestrial and space-based services in what we call the Single Network Future.

The next chapter in our wireless leadership is once again going to require us to think anew—and the National Spectrum Strategy is a start. It acknowledges the wide range of wireless technologies that exist today and the even broader array we could see in the future. Even better, it recognizes that to get to this future we need two things. First, we need a clear commitment to study specific bands—and this study puts 2,790 megahertz on the table. Second, we need a clear commitment to develop opportunities in the spectrum we study for near-term commercial use.

Though it is not the subject of the National Spectrum Strategy, there is one other thing that is fundamental. In fact, it is necessary for this strategy to be a success—and that is restoration of the FCC’s spectrum auction authority. For three decades, the FCC has used this

authority to distribute licenses for our airwaves so commercial actors can deploy, create, and innovate. Over this time, the FCC has held 100 auctions and raised more than \$233 billion for the United States Treasury. As a result, our auction program has enjoyed strong bipartisan support here at home, and our efforts have been a model for regulators worldwide. For all these reasons, in the past Congress always extended FCC auction authority without interruption. That did not happen this time around and we need to fix it—stat. Because restoring this authority will provide the United States with the strongest foundation to compete in a global wireless economy, counter our adversaries' technology ambitions, and safeguard our national security. It will also provide us with the tools essential to take the airwaves this strategy identifies to commercial markets for 5G, 6G, and beyond.

Now, let's make it happen. Thank you.