

**REMARKS OF
FCC COMMISSIONER ANNA M. GOMEZ
2024 NTIA SPECTRUM POLICY SYMPOSIUM
WASHINGTON, DC
FEBRUARY 1, 2024**

Good morning. Thank you for inviting me to NTIA's sixth annual Spectrum Policy Symposium. It is very nice to return to my old home and an honor to participate in this critical conversation alongside key federal partners.

As Scott mentioned, I am the newest Commissioner at the Federal Communications Commission. And as he also mentioned, I served as NTIA's Deputy Administrator and, most recently, served at the Department of State, where I led our nation's preparations for the International Telecommunication Union World Radiocommunication Conference 2023.

I offer my remarks from this unique perspective of having been in leadership positions at each of the federal agencies that play a key role in our nation's spectrum policy. And my key message is this: collaboration leads to good policy.

First, we need a cooperative and collaborative framework where agencies work together to identify additional spectrum for new innovative uses. The good news here is that NTIA is already on the task!

The National Spectrum Strategy is the culmination of mutual effort by NTIA and the FCC that began two years ago as an initiative to shore up coordination and communications between our agencies (and by extension all the federal agencies). This also included updating the Memorandum of Understanding between our agencies and increasing meetings at policy and technical levels, including between FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel and Assistant Secretary Davidson.

We are stronger when we work together. NTIA plays a critical role advising the Executive Branch, managing spectrum for federal use, and in bringing the experts together to collaborate. On our end at the FCC, we administer spectrum for non-federal use and regulate the users that rely on it, and in so doing, we play a critical role in supporting wireless innovation that benefits consumers. And the Department of State leads efforts to ensure that U.S. needs are advanced on the global stage and that our technical expertise and innovation lead the way.

It takes all of us, working together, to craft our nation's vision and to execute it.

And of course, NTIA is now hard at work on drafting the Implementation Plan for the National Spectrum Strategy. The National Spectrum Strategy is a document with a vision. It lays out the core principles that will propel our nation's spectrum management and use, and identifies five bands for study for potential repurposing. Studying bands is a good first step, but it is only the beginning.

To achieve the goals of the Strategy, this process needs to move with alacrity.

And I need to stress the importance of NTIA leading the studies identified in the National Spectrum Strategy. By virtue of its role as manager of federal spectrum, as well as the fact that it

is not a primary spectrum user, NTIA does not have a parochial interest in any specific band and is well-positioned to be a trusted broker and manager of federal spectrum interests. In addition, we must recognize that there are some parts of the analysis that cannot be shared publicly. The importance of having an independent, trusted voice leading these studies cannot be overstated.

But NTIA cannot do this alone. It also needs a strong backing from the White House and the Secretary of Commerce as it moves this important initiative forward.

Looking ahead, the Commission will remain engaged in the National Spectrum Strategy implementation over the coming months and years. In this regard, Chairwoman Rosenworcel joined the first meeting of the Interagency Spectrum Advisory Council, which the President established to serve as the principal interagency forum for heads of agencies to advise NTIA on spectrum policy matters and to ensure that all decisions made by NTIA take into consideration the diverse missions of the Federal Government.

Although the FCC is an independent agency, we look forward to bringing our expertise to this important conversation. And I very much look forward to collaborating with our federal partners on the implementation of this important Strategy. Of course, reinstating the Commission's auction authority is critical to our ability to move forward.

Second, we need to continue to work together to manage the resource effectively and efficiently. This includes both looking at our processes to collaborate on spectrum management *and* considering all models of spectrum management including spectrum sharing.

I believe the Implementation Plan will help us improve our day-to-day cooperative process for coordinating agency actions. As we have less and less new spectrum to identify, we are going to need to coordinate even more closely to identify the best path forward for managing this resource.

There is limited greenfield spectrum left. As consumer demand for wireless devices grows and new wireless uses are developed, identifying spectrum for exclusive-use licenses will become more and more difficult.

This is where American ingenuity and innovation can again set an example for the world. We can try to identify new spectrum, but we need to acknowledge that sharing needs to be part of our toolbox going forward. Dynamic spectrum sharing approaches will be key, and developing and implementing technologies for dynamic spectrum sharing will create a new era for spectrum management and use.

And this is where collaboration will be key – spectrum sharing also requires a clearly established obligation to share by all stakeholders. That is, we cannot expect the private sector innovators to invest billions of dollars in spectrum subject to sharing unless it can be delivered with clear, reliable obligations by all parties to the sharing arrangements.

The good news is that we have a lot of experience with innovative sharing arrangements that both protect incumbents and permit new users to enter a specific band. We have a lot to learn still, but we are well on our way.

Third, our international efforts are critical to ensure our continued leadership in all things spectrum. From leading our nation's preparations for WRC-23, prior to my current gig, I learned that the thirst for wireless innovation is global.

In conversations with regulators and delegates from other nations, it was clear that we must continue to foster wireless innovation and support our spectrum goals by building relationships with them. Our unified presence in global stages like the WRC is critical.

I think the entire U.S. delegation, under Deputy Assistant Secretary Steve Lang and with participation from the FCC and NTIA, accomplished great advancements advocating for U.S. positions at WRC-23. Continuing to build relationships with regulators around the world is critical to advance our positions and to support our leadership.

And of course, we need continued collaboration with industry and those that take spectrum policy and turn it into real technology.

The National Spectrum Strategy is a critical blueprint for continuing to create more access to spectrum, advance innovation in spectrum management and use, and maintain our global leadership in wireless innovation. Congratulations NTIA on releasing the strategy. The upcoming Implementation Plan will get us all right to work.

We have much work ahead of us, and I look forward to the opportunity to bring my expertise in domestic and international spectrum policy to our collective efforts and shared success.

Thank you.