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**For Immediate Release**

**CHAIRWOMAN ROSENWORCEL HIGHLIGHTS ONE-YEAR  
EXPIRATION OF AGENCY’S SPECTRUM AUCTION AUTHORITY  
AND POTENTIAL CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO MAINTAIN U.S.  
LEADERSHIP**

WASHINGTON, March 7, 2024—Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel issued the following statement today ahead of the one-year expiration of the agency’s spectrum auction authority after it was not extended by Congress for the first time ever, and to highlight potential next steps in light of this reality for the agency:

“For more than thirty years, the Federal Communications Commission’s authority to auction the nation’s airwaves proved to be an indispensable tool for harnessing the promise of new wireless technologies while also spurring economic growth, creating jobs, and strengthening our national security and international leadership.

“However, in light of the reality the agency has faced for almost a year, we are now compelled to ask what we can do with our current unassigned spectrum in order to keep innovation moving ahead in a global market for wireless that is not slowing down. I remain hopeful that the FCC’s auction authority will be restored quickly so that this important program is once again able to produce results for consumers and the economy. The agency stands ready to work with lawmakers to ensure we don’t find ourselves in the same place next year.”

***Additional Background***

Given the agency’s current lack of spectrum auction authority, the Commission today opened a docket to explore how its existing regulatory tools and current statutory authority could provide the public with access to its inventory of currently unassigned spectrum in bands previously licensed for wireless services through auctions. Chairwoman Rosenworcel remains committed to working with Congress to restore the agency’s auction authority as originally outlined in Section 309 of the Communications Act.

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*This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).*