

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ANNA M. GOMEZ**

Re: *Upper C-band (3.98–4.2 GHz)*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, GN Docket No. 25-59
(November 20, 2025).

I am pleased to see that this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking reflects a critical practice of good policymaking—asking balanced questions that address the concerns of stakeholders before making a final proposal. This practice is key in proceedings like this one, where there are many stakeholder interests at stake. As we saw in the past, failure to address concerns during the first C-Band transition led to coordination and consensus challenges that cost time and money.

As I said during the Notice of Inquiry, by asking questions early, we move toward consensus and effectiveness in spectrum management that benefits consumers.

I would like to thank the Office of the Chairman for working with me on edits. I am particularly pleased to see a question about a Tribal Licensing Window. I believe that a Tribal Licensing Window can occur concurrently with an auction of the Upper C-Band because the tools that we would utilize to facilitate the window have already been created by the Commission and it would involve only a discrete number of licenses that would become available to an identified set of Tribal Nations. Absent a Tribal Licensing Window, Tribal Lands become part of larger license service areas and are often the last areas to see service, if at all. But with a Tribal Licensing Window, Tribal Nations get access to a license limited to the boundaries of their Tribal Lands which allows them to begin providing connectivity to residents rather than being forced to wait for a carrier to develop a business case to do so.

I am also so glad to see that we included a question about alternative approaches “to facilitate access to portions of the band or geographic areas that are not ultimately assigned or used.” I am partial to market-based solutions like ‘Use or Lease’ to counter the problem of fallow spectrum. I think this question opens a helpful conversation about the tools that the Commission can employ to maximize spectrum use.

I look forward to seeing the record in this proceeding develop and hearing from all stakeholders on the proposals we present today.