

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Fixed and Mobile Services in the Mobile Satellite Service Bands at 1525-1559 MHz and 1626.5-1660.5 MHz, 1610-1626.5 MHz and 2483.5-2500 MHz, and 2000-2020 MHz and 2180-2200 MHz, ET Docket No. 10-142.*

On June 28th, President Obama released a memorandum entitled “Unleashing the Wireless Broadband Revolution.” That Memorandum asserts that our Nation’s exponential increase in the demand for wireless services will likely outpace the supply of spectrum currently allocated. It concludes that to address this looming spectrum shortage, we should promote an environment where innovation thrives, and we should take steps to unlock the value of otherwise underutilized spectrum.

I agree with the President, and that is why I enthusiastically support the Commission’s decision to initiate this proceeding. As the item explains, if we make prudent changes to some of the Commission’s policies with regard to Mobile Satellite Services, we can create incentives for the wireless industry to find innovative ways to make greater use of the spectrum that we had initially allocated for MSS services. By promoting this innovation, we will help wireless carriers meet the unyielding consumer demand for wireless spectrum.

I am pleased that the item takes a careful approach. In its proposal to subject MSS licensees to the Commission’s secondary market spectrum leasing policies, the item wisely recognizes that not all spectrum leasing policies may be suitable for all MSS licensees, particularly those MSS licensees that have also deployed Ancillary Terrestrial Component services. The item also acknowledges that making MSS spectrum available through spectrum lease arrangements could raise some competition concerns. Accordingly, the item properly solicits input on the competitive factors the Commission should consider when evaluating a spectrum leasing arrangement between a MSS licensee and a wireless carrier.

I am also pleased that the Notice of Inquiry underscores the importance of maintaining MSS to provide services for the needs of public safety and federal government agencies, for rural areas, and for those areas that have suffered severe damage during natural disasters. The Commission must ensure that these communications needs continue to be met.

I thank the staffs of the International Bureau, Office of Engineering and Technology, and Wireless Telecommunications Bureau for presenting us with this thoughtful item. Indeed, over the past few months, the Commission staff has done a commendable job in meeting the timelines for the key broadband action items for this year. I believe it is prudent that the Commission continue to consider the recommendations in the Plan in a timely manner. This is especially important in the wireless arena due to the increasing demand for wireless services. In particular, the Commission should timely conclude its consultation with NTIA on the prospect of pairing the AWS-3 spectrum. Should that inquiry result in the conclusion that pairing is not a strong possibility, we should proceed in our adoption of final rules by year end so that we can auction that spectrum next year.