

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Amendment of Part 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Use of Microwave for Wireless Backhaul and Other Uses and to Provide Additional Flexibility to Broadcast Auxiliary Service and Operational Fixed Microwave Licensees; Request for Interpretation of Section 101.141(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules Filed by Alcatel-Lucent, Inc., et al.; Petition for Declaratory Ruling Filed by Wireless Strategies, Inc.; Request for Temporary Waiver of Section 101.141(a)(3) of the Commission's Rules Filed by Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition; WT Docket Nos. 10-153; 09-106; 07-121*

I am pleased to support this item because the changes it proposes may reduce the costs that companies face to provide wireless services, including broadband, and could lead to more wireless opportunities for consumers, particularly rural consumers.

In May of this year, the Commission released its *Fourteenth Annual Report and Analysis* on the mobile wireless market. That report made three interrelated findings that, in my opinion, are important about the state of wireless services in rural areas. First, more than ten million people live in rural areas with two or fewer wireless service providers. Second, the need for backhaul transport imposes significant costs on wireless service providers. Third, rural service providers are increasing their use, of microwave communications to reduce the costs of backhaul transport. Those findings suggest that we should look for ways to lower the costs of providing wireless services, including backhaul transport, in order to promote those services in rural areas.

One way to reduce the costs for backhaul transport for wireless providers is to create a regulatory environment that allows for more flexible use of microwave communications. Giving service providers more options on how they can use microwave communications, enhances their ability to find the most cost effective backhaul transport solutions for their respective business models. This item identifies a number of areas in which the Commission's rules could encourage more flexible use of microwave communications of up to 750 megahertz of spectrum, while proposing to protect incumbent operations, and increase the flexibility of operations.

I applaud Chairman Genachowski's leadership in setting ambitious goals in this proceeding, and I thank the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau staff for its efforts in crafting a Notice to elicit further information from the public, on how we should balance these important public interest benefits.