

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN JULIUS GENACHOWSKI**

*Re: Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 10-159, Seventh Broadband Deployment Notice of Inquiry*

Our responsibility to ensure that broadband is being deployed in a reasonable and timely fashion to all Americans is one of this Commission's most important duties, one that can help drive significant investment, create jobs, and bring tremendous benefits to consumers.

We know from our last report that our nation is not where it needs to be in this area—between 14 and 24 million Americans remain without access to robust broadband, and market forces alone are unlikely to close this gap in the near future. Some find this acceptable; I do not. This finding underscores the urgency of our ongoing work to implement the recommendations of the National Broadband Plan. That work includes reforming the Universal Service Fund as an effective public-private partnership that fuels investment in networks to bring broadband to unserved Americans.

Today we launch the process to develop our next report, seeking broad public input on how to continue improving the data and analysis we use to monitor and accelerate our nation's progress toward our shared goal of universal broadband.