

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Innovation in the Broadcast Television Bands: Allocations, Channel Sharing and Improvements to VHF*, ET Docket No. 10-235, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

I strongly support efforts to encourage more efficient use of all spectrum including broadcast spectrum. So if certain broadcasters are under-utilizing the spectrum we have licensed to them, and for those who are willing to do so on a voluntary basis, I am supportive of any recovery mechanism that would best benefit the public interest. Additionally, I endorse actions that give all of our licensees more flexibility, which will allow for more innovation and competition that will ultimately benefit consumers.

We also have, however, a significant obligation to protect the important public benefits that over-the-air broadcast TV provides for our Nation. As we progress through this, and other proceedings related to the National Broadband Plan's recommendation for reallocating 120 MHz of broadcast spectrum for broadband services, we should carefully study the possible impact that removing broadcast spectrum could have on *all* consumers in local communities.

But I cannot stress enough that we must pay careful attention to those who are most vulnerable to the loss of broadcast television. We learned during the DTV transition that a large number of Americans, such as seniors and the very poor continue to rely on broadcast TV to stay informed. Those communities that heavily depend on broadcast programming should not have to sacrifice those benefits in order for our Nation to attain wireless broadband services. I encourage our staff to work closely with broadcasters and consumer advocates, so that we arrive at a long-term solution that properly balances both of these important interests.