

**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, Petition for Rulemaking filed by Fixed Wireless Communications Coalition to Amend Part 101 of the Commission's Rules to Authorize 60 and 80 MHz Channels in Certain Bands for Broadband Communications, WT Docket No. 10-153, RM-11602*

I am pleased to see that the Bureau is continuing its reform of Part 101 rules, in order to facilitate more wireless service deployment. As we all know, backhaul transport is necessary to extend wireless service, but backhaul imposes significant costs on wireless carriers, especially in rural areas. As a consequence, carriers are increasing their reliance on fixed wireless service over microwave communications in order to reduce those costs. Between 2005 and 2009, the amount of backhaul traffic sent by fixed wireless increased from 8.7 percent, to 12.4 percent. So, rule changes that enable greater use of microwave communications, is great news for wireless customers.

Last summer, we adopted changes that could enable as much as 650 megahertz of spectrum, for backhaul transport, in rural areas. Today's amendment should also spur greater deployment of services, by substantially reducing operational costs to provide wireless backhaul. Permitting smaller antennas in the 6, 18, and 23 GHz bands, can allow the industry to realize significant cost savings, because smaller antennas are cheaper to manufacture, install, and maintain.

The evidence in the record shows, for example, that if an operator using a 6 GHz link is able to use 3-foot antennas instead of 6-foot antennas, site rental costs could decrease by \$7,200 each year. In addition, smaller antennas allow existing towers to accommodate more antennas, and allow installations at sites, that would not otherwise be able to accommodate larger antennas. Allowing 60 and 80 MHz channels, in the 6 and 11 GHz bands, could also result in a number of benefits including faster data service and more efficient use of spectrum.

I am also glad that the Commission is listening to industry and, as shown in the Notice of Inquiry, is embarking on a comprehensive review of its antenna standards. Since manufacturers are developing next generation antennas that will introduce a greater array of options for deploying wireless backhaul, the Commission should review its rules to see if any changes are necessary to facilitate deployment of these new antennas. I wish to thank John Leibovitz, Charles Oliver, and the staff of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, for presenting us with such an excellent item.