

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

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*

Backhaul is the lifeblood of so much of communications. It is the essential artery from the network edge to the network core. Traditionally, backhaul has been the province of copper circuits and fiber optic lines. But in a world gone wireless, microwave facilities are now often used to transmit data between cell sites and between cell sites and network backbones.

The steps we take today are technical. They update microwave backhaul efficiency standards, provide higher capacity channels, and allow use of smaller antennas. They also adopt policies that will lower barriers to entry in rural areas where laying new fiber for backhaul can be prohibitively expensive. But at their heart, these are rules that promote flexibility. In doing so, they strengthen the foundation of our wireless systems by creating new opportunities to manage the deluge of mobile data that is already beginning to rush over next-generation wireless networks.

Managing this flood will not be simple or easy. As demand for mobile data grows and the supply of unencumbered spectrum decreases, the pressure is on. We will look to the private sector to innovate and create new technologies that will multiply the capacity of our airwaves. We must also consider structured incentives to reward efficient spectrum use by federal authorities. But this agency, too, needs to be quick and agile. Moving ahead like we do here is a small but critical part of reducing the cost of deployment and growing our wireless infrastructure. To build on efforts like this, I believe it also would be prudent to provide a timeline for upcoming wireless auctions. I look forward to working with my colleagues at the agency to make this happen.