

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER**

Re: *Amendment of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules for Unlicensed Operations in the Television Bands, Repurposed 600 MHz Band, 600 MHz Guard Bands and Duplex Gap, and Channel 37; Amendment of Part 74 of the Commission's Rules for Low Power Auxiliary Stations in the Repurposed 600 MHz Band and 600 MHz Duplex Gap; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions;*

Promoting Spectrum Access for Wireless Microphone Operations; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions;

The FCC's Incentive Auction is an innovative approach to making efficient, market-driven use of our spectrum resources, which could revolutionize how our airwaves are allocated. We continue to make steady progress toward implementing this historic auction.

In May, the Commission adopted an Incentive Auction Report and Order, and, in the four months since, the Incentive Auction team and multiple bureaus and offices have done tremendous work to advance a number of significant related items, as promised in the Incentive Auction R&O.

The Commission is approving two of those items today.

First, we are proposing to change our Part 15 rules to allow for more robust unlicensed service and efficient spectral use. These changes would extend opportunities for innovative unlicensed use in the 600 MHz band guard bands, Channel 37, and remaining TV bands, while preventing harmful interference to licensed services.

Second, we are exploring how best to address the needs of wireless microphone users over the long term, while encouraging development of technologies that will better facilitate sharing with other wireless uses in an increasingly crowded spectral environment.

Both items bring home once again the fact that both licensed and unlicensed spectrum are critical inputs to our wireless ecosystem. They also recognize the importance of sharing our valuable, but limited, spectrum resources, even when such sharing may not be entirely comfortable – or easy – for incumbent users.

Thank you to the Incentive Auction Task Force, the Office of Engineering and Technology, the Wireless Bureau, and all the Commission staff who worked on these items.