

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Ensuring Customer Premises Equipment Backup Power for Continuity of Communications*, PS Docket No. 14-174, *Technology Transitions*, GN Docket No. 13-5, *Policies and Rules Governing Retirement Of Copper Loops by Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers*, RM-11358, *Special Access for Price Cap Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 05-25, *AT&T Corporation Petition for Rulemaking to Reform Regulation of Incumbent Local Exchange Carrier Rates for Interstate Special Access Services*, RM-10593.

Our world is changing. The digitization of our networks, our content, our commerce, and our lives is well underway. The ways we connect, create, educate, entertain, and govern ourselves will never be the same.

This is exciting. But on the way to this future we are going to need new communications architecture and new communications policies. That does not mean that we discard on the scrap heap what has come before. After all, the enduring values in our law that have shaped our success in the past can also shape our success going forward. So as we contemplate big, bold, and historic changes in our infrastructure, our work must be informed by the four basic values that have always been at the core of communications policy—public safety, universal access, competition, and consumer protection. They must be the guideposts for everything we do.

These values inform our work today. So I am pleased to support the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Declaratory Ruling before us and commend the focus in the text on the essential values of public safety, competition, and consumer protection.

First, public safety. Technology evolves but our need to stay connected to emergency services does not. As consumers migrate away from traditional copper telephony to newer technologies, we seek comment on how to sustain backup power during outages and emergencies. This is important.

Second, competition. The competitive markets that have spurred so much technological innovation in the past will be the most effective means of making sure consumers reap the benefits of network transition in the future. So today we seek comment on copper retirement practices and service discontinuance rules. I hope the record that develops helps us understand how we can continue to foster competition as infrastructure is upgraded.

Last but not least, consumer protection. Consumers need to understand what is happening as old copper networks are retired and new services come on the market. So I am pleased we seek comment on how to provide notice to consumers when infrastructure is retired and how to do a better job with consumer education.

In short, we ask a lot of questions. We explore a lot of complicated issues. This is the right thing to do—because big change is underway. So I look forward to working with my colleagues on these issues and look forward to making sure our new networks yield new possibilities and new opportunities for everyone.