

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Revision of Part 15 of the Commission's Rules to Permit Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) Devices in the 5 GHz Band*

Today's proceeding is just the latest example of smart government policy designed to promote industry innovation in unlicensed services in order to yield the greatest public benefit. The technical ingenuity, which ultimately has resulted in the explosive demand for Wi-Fi services, is several decades old and it is most fitting that, on this last day of Women's History Month, we are adopting an order to spur greater use of services that a woman helped to create. Many are familiar with how actress Hedy Lamarr invented frequency hopping technology in the 1940s. It is more than industry lore; she actually held a patent on the idea.

The federal government and commercial players eventually realized the benefits of Ms. Lamarr's idea, and beginning in the 1980's in response to petitions from federal agencies and industry, the Commission started promoting greater use of frequency hopping and spread spectrum in unlicensed services in the 2.4 and 5 GHz bands. Those policies together with the evolution of the 802.11 family of technical standards and Wi-Fi only tablets has resulted in the great consumer demand for Wi-Fi devices we see today.

Once criticized by licensed wireless providers; unlicensed spectrum is now being heavily used to off load data traffic. The economists who have studied the area have different estimates, but there is a consensus that Wi-Fi off load saves wireless companies tens of billions of dollars in network costs each year. Demand for unlicensed services, has spiked so much that the 2.4 GHz band is now congested particularly in major cities. We have to be ambitious in finding more ways to provide licensed and unlicensed spectrum for commercial services.

I commend the staff for working so efficiently to bring us an Order that makes 100 megahertz of spectrum, in the U-NII-1 band, available for both outdoor and indoor use of unlicensed services. This was not an easy process. A couple of months ago, advocates for the Wi-Fi and satellite industries seemed locked into their litigation positions. But thanks to the careful and creative work of Julie Knapp, Aole Wilkins, Karen Rackley, and other OET experts, we were able to narrow their differences and arrive at technical rules that both sides approve. Today's Order also has important device certification and security rules to prevent the interference that some U-NII devices were causing to federal operations a few years ago. I look forward to the staff's efforts to free up an additional 195 megahertz in the U-NII-2 and 4 bands. Thank you.