

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act, GN Docket No. 15-191.*

This inquiry kicks off our annual examination of the state of broadband. It's important to chart our progress—because broadband is more than a technology, it's a platform for opportunity. Extending its reach across this country is our new manifest destiny, because it is an essential part of modern civic and commercial life. No matter who you are or where you live, you need access to modern communications if you want a fair shot at prosperity in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

With this in mind, we ask questions—lots and lots of questions. We ask about deployment, adoption, speed, and demand. We also inquire about challenges in rural areas and on Tribal lands, where too many residents for too long have been consigned to the wrong side of the digital divide. In addition, we seek comment on mobile broadband in light of new Form 477 data. And while we keep in place our current 25 Megabit standard for broadband, we also ask about faster speeds in the future. I appreciate that we are forward-looking, because when we set big goals we can make big things happen. I look forward to the record that develops.