

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER**

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92.

Today, we adopt a declaratory ruling to ensure that the transition to IP-based networks and services is not impeded by outdated technological distinctions. In the *2011 USF/ICC Transformation Order*, the Commission adopted the VoIP symmetry rule as part of its effort to abandon outdated approaches to intercarrier compensation, eliminate competitive distortions, and encourage the transition to IP-based networks and services. The action we take today precludes carriers from advancing self-serving interpretations of this rule in an effort to skew the competitive landscape, today and into the future.

I continue to believe that technology transitions will be speeded by technology-neutral rules that promote, preserve, and protect the competitive choices that consumers expect. Today's decision will help maintain those competitive choices through symmetrical treatment of like services and additional regulatory certainty for all parties.