

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON CLYBURN**

Re: *Telcordia Technologies, Inc. Petition to Reform Amendment 57 and to Order a Competitive Bidding Process for Number Portability Administration*, WC Docket No. 07-149, *Petition of Telcordia Technologies, Inc. to Reform or Strike Amendment 70, to Institute Competitive Bidding for Number Portability Administration, and to End the NAPM LLC's Interim Role in Number Portability Administration Contract Management*, WC Docket No. 09-109, *Telephone Number Portability*, CC Docket No. 95-116.

In today's always-on, 24/7 digital society, some people's 10-digit telephone number is as an important identifier as their birthdate or social security number. They may have moved to a new home, changed jobs, or even switched service providers but, thanks to number portability, their telephone number can stay the same if they wish. The nation's local number portability administrator plays a critical role in ensuring that the process of managing numbering including number porting works seamlessly. Congress also recognized the importance of numbering administration – so much so, that certain requirements regarding the numbering administrator or administrators, including the need for impartiality, are enshrined in section 251(e) of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

Given the importance of this issue, I do not reach today's decision lightly. I have carefully considered the concerns raised in the record, which range from process, security, impact on small providers, to neutrality and believe that Today's Order, which culminates a five-year process, has allowed all interested parties the opportunity to adequately participate and weigh-in. Transitions are rarely easy, and this one in particular has been the subject of considerable analysis and robust public debate. When it is all said and done, it should be noted that this transition should yield significant savings over the next seven years – savings that I hope will ultimately be passed along, to consumers.

Now, I am not so naïve to believe that today's action will end the debate. What we are voting to approve after much thoughtful review, debate and deliberation is the North American Numbering Council's (NANC) recommendation for the next local number portability administrator. This action will launch the negotiations for a new contract and, despite the intense debate, I am hopeful that everyone will work in good faith to ensure a smooth transition.

I want to thank the NANC including its Chair and Chairman of the DC Public Service Commission, Commissioner Betty Ann Kane, as well as the Wireline Competition Bureau and Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, for their dedication and hard work on this item.