

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Numbering Policies for Modern Communications*, WC Docket No. 13-97, *IP-Enabled Services*, WC Docket No. 04-36, *Telephone Number Requirements for IP-Enabled Services Providers*, WC Docket No. 07-243, *Telephone Number Portability*, CC Docket No. 95-116, *Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92, *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90, *Numbering Resource Optimization*, CC Docket No. 99-200.

It was two decades ago, but I remember it like it was yesterday. My parents in Hartford, Connecticut announced that the childhood telephone number I had always known would change. Area code 203 was no more. Welcome to area code 860. This was hardly a big deal in the history of communications. But it was the first time I remember thinking about the link between place and number and community and identity.

What felt strange twenty years ago now seems quaint. Today, forty-four percent of households have cut the cord and use only wireless service. In my office, that percentage is a lot higher—and the numbers associated with our devices are a jumble of area codes from across the country. We are severing place and number like never before and the platforms we use to communicate are evolving faster than ever before—not only from wireline to wireless, but also from low-speed to high-speed. Beyond that, they are multiplying into new forms, with a range of messaging applications built into social networks and applications that may in time turn into new communications hubs.

With this rush of change, one thing is clear—it's time for the Commission to change, too. That's why today's decision is the right one.

Even better, it puts in place an idea we incubated here in our very own policy sandbox. Two years ago, we launched a trial process to see if it was technically feasible for interconnected VoIP providers to obtain access to numbering resources directly. The trial provided a proof-of-concept. It helped guide today's effort to update the authorization process so that more communications providers can access numbering resources and develop more innovative services. In addition, this effort will improve access to a key input for 911 emergency services.

The mechanics of this proceeding are complex. But at its core this decision is a simple reminder of how our networks are in a period of profound change. The communications devices in my childhood home no longer look anything like what they did twenty years ago. We can reach out and connect in ways that were unthinkable back when the area code I always knew was changed. This is change for the good. Our work here today is, too. It has my full support.