

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Expanding Consumers' Video Navigation Choices*, MB Docket No. 16-42; *Commercial Availability of Navigation Devices*, CS Docket No. 97-80.

Here's an experiment. You can do it at home. Just sit in your favorite comfortable chair—you know, the one in front of the television. In one hand hold the remote control for your set top box. In the other hand hold your mobile phone. Now ask yourself which of these two devices has changed substantially over the past two decades? Which has seen extraordinary innovation? Which has benefited from competition?

The answers are obvious. The bulky, graceless mobile phones from two decades ago have been replaced by sleek new models. But it's more than just aesthetics, because what we can do with these devices is incredible. Smartphones have changed our lives—and are changing our world. But the clunky set top box and many-buttoned remote have not evolved at the same pace—nor have they faced the same level of competition.

The numbers make this very clear. Ninety-nine percent of consumers still rent their set top boxes from their pay television provider. The typical household spends more than \$231 a year on set top box rental fees. Costs are high, innovation is slow, and competition is limited.

Congress did not want it to be this way. Two decades ago, in the Telecommunications Act of 1996, this agency was charged with ensuring the commercial availability of navigation devices—creating a competitive market for set top boxes. There are times when legislative directives are not clear; this is not one of them.

I think we can do better. So I support today's rulemaking.

But I also think we have a lot of work to do. Important questions have been raised about copyright, privacy, diversity—and a whole host of other issues in a marketplace that has been tough for competitive providers to crack. We will need to explore them in the record that develops. Let me raise one other: This rulemaking is complicated. It describes three information streams for navigation services, work that needs to be done by standards bodies, a medley of security systems, and a trio of parity requirements. The most successful regulatory efforts are simple ones. More work needs to be done to streamline this proposal, because in the end for consumers to enjoy the bounty of what we have proposed—execution is all.

So what we have here may not be the precise way forward. But something has got to give. I support Chairman Wheeler's effort to get this proceeding started. Because it is time—past time—to live up to our statutory obligations and foster the competition consumers deserve.