

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Amendment of Parts 1, 22, 24, 27, 74, 80, 90, 95, and 101 To Establish Uniform License Renewal, Discontinuance of Operation, and Geographic Partitioning and Spectrum Disaggregation Rules and Policies for Certain Wireless Radio Services*, WT Docket No. 10-112

Baseball has been with us for over a century. And fans regard its rules as sacrosanct. But for the early years of its existence, during the 1800s, major rule changes occurred regularly, and it was common for different leagues to play by different rules. For instance, in 1886, the National League required seven balls for a walk, while the American Association required only six (the current four-ball rule was codified in 1889). However, since the American League was formed in 1901, the rules have been consistent across both leagues—except for the pesky Designated Hitter rule, which they can't seem to agree on. Needless to say, baseball's been a huge success ever since.

This *Report and Order* has a similar aim of consistency. Today, the FCC has a patchwork for handling the renewal of Wireless Radio Service spectrum licenses. Some renewal rules are service-specific. There are different provisions on comparative renewals and continuity of service. We also have partitioning and disaggregation performance rules. This patchwork isn't optimal, to say the least.

We want to change all that by standardizing the framework. We'll have a single step-by-step process that will be applied across the board. This simplified process will reduce regulatory burdens so resources can go towards investment in wireless networks and spurring innovation in all parts of America.

This item takes another step that, in my view, hits it out of the park. Too often, licensed spectrum isn't being used to benefit Americans who live in rural areas. That's why I'm pleased that today's *Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* asks questions on how the FCC could promote greater buildout in these areas. We want this public resource, once licensed, to benefit as many Americans as possible—including those in hard-to-reach places. That's an important component of closing the urban-rural divide when it comes to connectivity.

My thanks to the FCC staff for their work on this item. In particular, thanks to John Barry, Steve Buenzow, Lloyd Coward, Peter Daronco, Tom Derenge, Anna Gentry, Jessica Greffenius, Kathy Harris, Joyce Jones, Roger Noel, Tom Reed, Mike Regiec, John Schauble, Jim Schlichting, Blaise Scinto, Scot Stone, Nina Shafran, Cecilia Sulhoff, Alex Vetras, and Mary Claire York from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; Tracy Simmons and Michael Wilhelm from the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau; Jason Koslofsky, Jeremy Marcus, and Aspa Paroutsas from the Enforcement Bureau; Chana Wilkerson from the Office of Communications Business Opportunities; and David Horowitz and Doug Klein from the Office of General Counsel.