

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: *Nationwide Number Portability*, WC Docket No. 17-244; *Numbering Policies for Modern Communications*, WC Docket No. 13-97.

Number portability may not grab frontpage headlines but its implications for consumer choice and competition are significant. Nearly two years ago, the Commission requested that the North American Numbering Council (NANC) evaluate and recommend actions to enable nationwide number portability. In May 2016, the NANC answered with a far-ranging report identifying paths forward and likely barriers that the Commission would need to consider along the way. Today, we move towards making nationwide number portability a reality, by opening a proceeding to examine exactly whether and how we should implement it.

I look forward to reviewing the record, and evaluating what next steps we as a Commission should take. I am particularly interested in hearing from consumers on how this will impact their ability to move freely from one carrier to another, as well as from carriers as to how this will impact their ability to compete in the marketplace.

While I am tempted to use this opportunity to make an incredibly relevant, yet inappropriate, reference to a rap song about gardening implements and numbering resources, my better angels hold me back. Instead I will thank the Wireline Competition Bureau and the numbering team in particular, for your hard work on this item.