

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN AJIT PAI**

Re: *Amendment of Parts 1 and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to the Cellular Service, Including Changes in Licensing of Unserved Area, WT Docket No. 12-40, RM No, 11510; Amendment of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Relocation of Part 24 to Part 27; Interim Restrictions and Procedures for Cellular Service Applications; Amendment of Parts 0, 1, and 22 of the Commission's Rules with Regard to Frequency Coordination for the Cellular Service; Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Radiated Power Limits for the Cellular Service, RM No. 11660; 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; 2016 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations, WT Docket No. 16-138*

The Commission first adopted rules governing commercial cellular service in 1981—the same year MTV was launched. One of the very first videos MTV aired was “Rockin’ the Paradise,” by Styx. Notably, the song’s lyrics included the following: “We need long term, slow burn, getting it done / And some straight talking, hard working son of a gun / . . . Let’s stick together and futurize our attitudes.”

Those lyrics underscore our decision today to modernize our cellular licensing and power rules. MTV has evolved enormously since its inception, but those rules have largely stayed the same.

And so we update in this *Order* various technical and service rules in the 800 MHz cellular band. We also conform our cellular rules to those of other commercial wireless services with respect to out of band emissions, power measurement, field strength, and discontinuance of operations.

The Commission’s cellular rules were adopted when commercial mobile service relied on narrowband technologies. Over three and a half decades later, these rules (and the technical assumptions that underlay them) are hopelessly obsolete. Long Term Evolution, or LTE, is now well-developed and broadly deployed. It offers consumers high-speed access that lets us stream videos—including “Rockin’ the Paradise,” which you can find online—to mobile devices more powerful than most personal computers that existed in 1981. But the legacy rules limit wireless coverage for companies that want to deploy LTE.

This state of affairs changes today. The reforms we are adopting will help wireless companies better meet consumer demand for mobile connectivity and continue to innovate by facilitating the use of cellular spectrum to provide advanced services such as LTE.

I’d like to thank the Commission’s dedicated staff, including Linda Chang, Lloyd Coward, Tom Derenge, Nese Guendelsberger, Roger Noel, Moslem Sawez, Jim Schlichting, and Nina Shafran in the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau; Michael Ha and Ira Keltz in the Office of Engineering and Technology; and David Furth, Brian Marengo, and Michael Wilhelm in the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau. Thanks to your labors, we are sticking together and futurizing our attitudes about cellular licensing in ways that will benefit consumers in years to come.