

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR**

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; *Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund*, WT Docket No. 10-208

The United States has led the world in the deployment of 4G wireless technologies. But there are still too many communities that lack access to high-speed wireless service. This is particularly so in rural America, where sparse populations and challenging terrain drive up the cost of deployment. The FCC has been committed to closing this digital divide and ensuring that everyone has access to the opportunities that broadband enables.

In my mind, there are at least two key pieces to addressing this issue.

First, we must continue to target support from the Universal Service Fund to unserved areas of the country. We do that today by resolving some of the last issues that have stood in the way of commencing the Mobility Fund Phase II Auction, which will target up to \$4.53 billion over ten years to bring 4G LTE to rural and other high-cost communities.

Second, we need to continue reforming our regulatory structures to drive down the cost of broadband deployment. This means streamlining everything from the historic and environmental review procedures that apply at the federal level to ensuring that state and local regimes do not operate as barriers to deployment. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues as we make progress on those issues.

Finally, I want to thank the staffs of the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, the Wireline Competition Bureau, and the Rural Broadband Auctions Task Force for their work on this item. It has my support.