

**STATEMENT, DISSENTING IN PART, OF  
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Connect America Fund*, WC Docket No. 10-90; *ETC Annual Reports and Certifications*, WC Docket No. 14-58; *Establishing Just and Reasonable Rates for Local Exchange Carriers*, WC Docket No. 07-135; *Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime*, CC Docket No. 01-92

Two years ago, the Federal Communications Commission took a series of meaningful steps to help connect rural America to broadband. This effort made it easier for carriers serving rural areas to offer consumers standalone broadband service. It also opened a new frontier for small carriers serving rural communities by providing them with the opportunity to receive model-based support from the universal service fund. These actions were extraordinarily complex, but they set the agency on a course to improve service in some of our most remote communities. Today, we continue on this path by making small but important adjustments to our rules. These changes will adjust limitations on support allowances and bring clarity to permissible expenses. They have my support.

However, I dissent in part on the rulemaking associated with this effort. It fails to ask any questions about how to protect rural consumers who lack other service options if they find they are on the losing end of discriminatory network practices in the wake of the FCC's net neutrality repeal. This is wrong. It deserves discussion and our failure to do so is an unfortunate abdication of our most basic consumer protection duties.