STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Re: Amendment of Parts 1, 2, 22, 24, 27, 90 and 95 of the Commission's Rules to Improve Wireless Coverage Through the Use of Signal Boosters, WT Docket No. 10-4

Can you hear me now? It was a great marketing slogan. I think that's because it felt so familiar. I know I've asked that question too many times to count. Often it was as I traversed with a mobile device in hand from the kitchen to the living room in my house. In fact, I can tell you with antenna-like accuracy where I have a strong signal at home and where it fades. I know many people have this experience even in metropolitan areas where coverage is good. I also know lots of rural consumers are not so lucky.

Five years ago, the FCC took steps to address this problem. It permitted consumers to extend the reach of their wireless networks through the use signal boosters. These simple, out-of-the-box devices improve wireless coverage by amplifying signals between wireless devices and networks. At the time, the agency went to great length to ensure that consumers who purchased these devices would be able to enjoy better wireless service without disrupting mobile use by their neighbors or the spectral needs of first responders.

Fast forward and our careful choices have been a success. Hundreds of thousands of signal boosters have been deployed. They not only improve service for individual consumers, they benefit carriers by reducing the number of dropped calls due to weak signals. Today we build on that success by eliminating what has proved to be an unnecessary restriction limiting the use of signal boosters by businesses, schools, and public safety. Specifically, we eliminate the personal use restriction for provider-specific signal boosters. In addition, we ask questions in a rulemaking about further liberalizing our signal booster policies with respect to new spectrum bands and expanded enterprise uses.

This is smart. It's an efficient approach to the use of spectrum resources. It's good for consumers everywhere—and just maybe in my house, too. I am pleased to offer my full support.