

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Update to Parts 2 and 25 Concerning Non-Geostationary, Fixed-Satellite Service Systems and Related Matters*, Second Report and Order, IB Docket No. 16-408

Today's order eliminates the domestic coverage requirement for non-geostationary-satellite-orbit, fixed-satellite service systems. For years this rule has required satellite systems to be capable of providing service to all parts of the United States. That's important because no matter who you are or where you live in this country you need access to modern communications to have a fair shot at 21st century success. But satellite systems have evolved and improved in many ways, and the evidence now suggests that this rule may be doing more harm than good. By eliminating the nationwide coverage requirement, the Federal Communications Commission creates possibilities for new NGSO systems that are designed specifically to serve the underserved areas that our rule was intended to protect—even if there is not nationwide demand for that service. That means more competition, more service, and more innovation for more Americans.

So while we are disposing of our nationwide coverage requirement today, it is not because we no longer think ubiquitous, nationwide coverage is important. Just the opposite. Our action is intended to promote more service, not less. And it is intended to promote service in rural and remote areas, including Alaska and Hawaii. If for any reason we find that parts of the country are being left behind, I expect the agency to take action to fulfill its core statutory mandate: to make available advanced communications service to all Americans.