**STATEMENT OF**

**COMMISSIONER GEOFFREY STARKS**

**CONCURRING**

Re: *Northstar Wireless, LLC,* File Nos. 0006670613, 0008243409; *SNR Wireless LicenseCo, LLC,* File Nos.0006670667, 0008243669; *Applications for New Licenses in the 1695-1710 MHz, and 1755-1780 MHz and 2155-2180 MHz Bands*, Report No. AUC-97AUC

Nearly 30 years ago, Congress directed the Commission, in establishing its competitive bidding rules for wireless spectrum licenses, to “promot[e] economic opportunity and competition and ensur[e] that new and innovative technologies are readily accessible to the American people by avoiding excessive concentration of licenses and by disseminating licenses among a wide variety of applicants, including small businesses, rural telephone companies, and businesses owned by members of minority groups and women.”[[1]](#footnote-2) Congress further directed the Commission to promote economic opportunity for those same groups and ensure their participation in the provision of spectrum-based services, including by considering the use of “tax certificates, bidding preferences and other procedures.”[[2]](#footnote-3)

While the current agreements between DISH and the companies in this case may have fallen short of our *de facto* control prohibitions, I reiterate my support for the Commission’s Designated Entity program and its accompanying rules. Congress has made it clear that diversity among Commission licensees is critical. The Designated Entity program seeks to create economic opportunities so that our country’s wireless spectrum isn’t strictly controlled by a few large carriers. We must do better.

1. 47 U.S.C. 309(j)(3)(B). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. *Id.* at 309(j)(B)(4). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)