STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL

Re: *Policies Regarding Mobile Spectrum Holdings, Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions,* Report and Order, WT Docket No. 12-269, Docket No. 12-268.

It has been nearly a dozen years since the Commission conducted its last major review of our approach to spectrum holdings. Think about that. Twelve years ago a flip phone was state of the art. Color displays on any phone were new and novel. And cameras had not yet invaded all of our wireless devices. It was a long time ago. A fresh look is not only in order, it is overdue.

So today we take up the task of updating our policies for spectrum holdings. We are guided by Section 309(j) of the Communications Act, which directs the agency to promote economic opportunity and competition.

But we do not act in a vacuum. Because our rules for spectrum holdings are intertwined with our upcoming efforts to identify new spectrum for wireless broadband. As part of these efforts, in the Middle Class Tax Relief and Job Creation Act, Congress directed the Commission to conduct a series of new spectrum auctions. And as part of these auctions, we have a solemn duty. We are entrusted by Congress with the responsibility to ensure that the proceeds from these auctions are sufficient to support a nationwide, interoperable, wireless broadband network for public safety. It has been more than a dozen years since the horror of 9/11. Too much time has passed and too many lives were lost for us to fall short of our promise, at long last, to provide interoperable communications to our first responders.

I believe that our efforts today honor this responsibility. We update our spectrum screen—the prism through which we review transactions. In doing so, we acknowledge that carriers now use more spectrum than ever before to provide wireless broadband service. But we also acknowledge that transactions involving valuable low-frequency spectrum merit enhanced scrutiny. At the same time, we adopt policies to guide bidding in our upcoming auctions. Our new rules make sure that everyone is welcome to bid and everyone will have a fair shot. But our approach also ensures that we meet our special responsibilities to our nation's first responders.

Consequently, this Report and Order has my support. So I want to thank the Chairman for his work with my office to reach this result—and for his commitment to public safety.