

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JESSICA ROSENWORCEL**

Re: *Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, as Amended by the Broadband Data Improvement Act*, GN Docket No. 15-191.

I believe the future belongs to the connected. That's because a broadband connection is more than a technology—it's a platform for opportunity. 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. That's a fact.

There are also a lot of facts in today's Report, which is our most comprehensive picture of where we stand in bringing broadband to all Americans. Much of the news is good. This is due in no small measure to the enormous investment that communications providers are making to deploy broadband across the country. At the same time, this Report demonstrates that we have communities that lack the connectivity they need today and require for the future. This is especially true in rural and Tribal areas. So we have work to do.

I also believe the future belongs to the bold. Enough with dreaming small. It's time to dream big. This is the country that put a man on the moon. We invented the Internet. We can do audacious things—if we set big goals.

So I believe we need big broadband goals. I am pleased that six years ago the Commission had the foresight to change our downstream broadband speed threshold from 200 kilobits to 4 Megabits. I am glad that last year we upped the ante and changed that threshold to 25 Megabits. I support the continued use of this standard today. But I think we need to go big and be bold. I think our new threshold should be 100 Megabits—and Gigabit speed should be in our sights. I believe anything short of goals like this shortchanges our children, our future, and our digital economy.

This may not be easy, but we can do it. That's because the history of innovation is brimming with examples of the great depths of American know-how. It's time to put that know-how to work and bring really big broadband everywhere.