

Response to Written Questions Submitted by Hon. John Thune to Hon. Mignon Clyburn

*Question 1.* As part of the Spectrum Frontiers Order, the FCC made available nearly 11 GHz of spectrum, but less than 4 GHz of that will be made available on a licensed basis. And a portion of that licensed spectrum will be allocated on a shared basis.

A. I believe that there should be a balance between licensed and unlicensed spectrum. Does this Order strike the proper balance? If so, please explain why.

Answer. Thank you for the question, Mr. Chairman. The Commission's overall spectrum policy should seek to achieve a balance of licensed, unlicensed and shared access spectrum to enable established industry players as well as entrepreneurs to develop innovative service offerings for consumers. I believe that the Spectrum Frontiers Order and Further Notice, a bipartisan effort that was based on a fully developed record, did just that. Due to its propagation characteristics, the 64-71 GHz band is not well suited for licensed use; thus, it was allocated for unlicensed use.

B. Should the Commission look for more licensed spectrum as it considers additional high frequency bands in its further notice?

Answer. Yes. In the Further Notice, the Commission, recognizing the relative proportions of spectrum allocated for licensed and unlicensed use in the Order, proposed to make an additional 18 GHz of spectrum available for licensed use.

*Question 2.* The Commission has proposed an exception to the local media cross-ownership ban that would allow a broadcaster to invest in a newspaper when it is "failing." This exception for cases in which a newspaper is "failing" renders little value to a newspaper that needs investments now, well before it is "failing." By the time a newspaper is "failing," a local broadcaster may no longer see it as a worthwhile investment – particularly in light of the consumer trend toward digital and mobile applications for news and entertainment. Shouldn't the Commission be seeking ways to encourage investment in newspapers before they get to a state of "failing," and before such newspapers may have to make the difficult decision to cut back on local reporting resources?

Answer. Thank you for the question. My ultimate goal, consistent with the Commission's statutory mandate, is to ensure strong, local and diverse voices throughout the broadcast television, radio as well as newspaper industries. The Commission, as you know, adopted the failed or failing newspaper or broadcast station waiver as one way to inject new investment opportunities. I remain open to looking at other ways to support investment in the newspaper business. In assessing whether further changes should be made to the Commission's ownership rules, I would look to ensure we do not reduce the number of local voices; that we have a comprehensive picture of how the incentive auction has impacted local markets; and that we simultaneously address the dismal state of media ownership diversity.

Response to Written Question Submitted by Hon. Roger Wicker to Hon. Mignon Clyburn

*Question.* What impact do you anticipate the FCC's proposed changes to existing rural wireless USF support mechanisms might have on critical services, like remote patient monitoring and precision agriculture applications, that rely on USF-supported wireless networks to function today? Can you assure me that the changes to wireless USF support mechanisms you are considering will do no harm to these existing services?

*Answer.* Thank you for the question, Senator. As you know, I have been a vocal proponent of the Mobility Fund for years, and am looking forward to the day the Commission makes it permanent. I anticipate that changing these support mechanisms to better target the funding to where it is most needed means that more Americans will be able to take advantage of services you speak of that rely on mobile wireless. Sadly, according to recent FCC staff analysis, about 1.5 million Americans still have no access to 4G LTE where they live. Our ultimate goal is to make sure more Americans to have access to not only the critical applications and services of today, but those of tomorrow. Moving forward on the Mobility Fund will help bring that goal closer to reality.