

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN**

Re: Cable Television Technical and Operational Requirements, MB Docket No. 12-217

Today we take a major step forward toward syncing our cable television technical and operational requirements with current realities. In light of the fundamental shifts in the industry since these rules were first put into place, these updates were necessary and are grounded in common sense. Through modernized rules on cable proof of performance and signal leakage, the FCC is being flexible and forward-looking when it comes to the industries that it regulates.

We offer a set of rules that seek to create quality standards for the performance of digital cable signals where only standards for analog signals existed. Eighty-percent of today's customers now receive some level of digital service. With this NPRM, no longer will cable providers who use digital signals to reach their customers have to seek waivers to the proof-of-performance rules or risk enforcement actions for non-compliance. Digital cable providers will now have a standard of performance against which their signals can be measured, and the FCC will have the means to ensure that consumers are receiving a minimum level of service.

Similarly, we are seeking to set standards for digital cable signal leakage where formerly only analog standards existed. Improperly maintained coaxial cable systems can potentially interfere with aircraft communications, and prior to this item, there were no interference standards that applied to digital signals. Approval of this item will mean that we are closer to establishing a standard that will provide aeronautical communications, the same level of protection from digital cable signal leakage as it currently has from analog cable signal leakage.

In sum, the changes that we seek are both consumer- and industry-friendly. In addition, these requirements will enhance public safety by minimizing needless interference with airline communications. And industry stands to benefit from the stability of standardized metrics and by no longer having to continually seek a waiver from a rule that may no longer make sense in light of a changed marketplace.

Today's updates provide a more coherent regulatory environment for all interested parties, and I wish to thank the Media Bureau, especially Jeff Neumann, for the great work on this item.