

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Numbering Resource Optimization, Third Report and Order and Second Order on Reconsideration in CC Docket No. 96-98 and CC Docket No. 99-200

I join in approving this Order because it is an important step in providing the States the additional flexibility they require to address numbering issues. As I have said before, State commissions often bear the brunt of consumer complaints. In particular, States work up front on issues involving numbering. Therefore, I applaud this Commission's actions in granting States additional numbering flexibility.

This Order grants the requests of several States to lift the prohibition on technology specific and service specific overlays. Allowing States such flexibility in how to address numbering issues is crucial, as the States are on the front lines of this battle. We must remember that it is the State Commissions, not this Commission, that feel the outcry from consumers when number conservation measures are adopted. I am thus hopeful that this Order will provide the States significant additional tools.

This item hardly ends our task, however. I expect this Commission to continue to work with the States to facilitate their number conservation plans in the future, providing expeditious decisions on applications for technology specific and service specific overlays and granting States additional flexibility as they need it.