

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL J. COPPS

June 13, 2002

RE: In the Matter of Service Rules for Use of the 71-76 GHz, 81-86 GHz and 92-95 GHz Bands, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.

I want to commend the Chairman, the Wireless Bureau and OET for initiating this proceeding. Today's we really begin the process of commercializing around 13 GHz – or 13,000 MHz – of spectrum. We may be dealing with apples and oranges in comparing this spectrum with other bands, but that's as much spectrum as currently occupied by all AM and FM broadcasting, all the television channels, all of the CMRS spectrum, all the way up to the DBS bands. That's a lot of room to cover with one NPRM, so good work.

I'm especially glad that we leave this NPRM open, with few tentative conclusions. These bands are very different than most of our other bands, and we need to keep our minds and options open. I'm particularly glad to see that we seek comments on where unlicensed operations are feasible. Unlicensed service has had great success elsewhere, and we should do our best to explore this option when we encounter new opportunities.