

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER**  
**MICHAEL J. COPPS**

*RE: In the Matter of Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum Below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services, Including Third Generation Wireless Systems (Second Report and Order).*

*In the Matter of Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1710-1755 MHz and 2110-2155 MHz Bands (NPRM).*

I commend the Commission for moving forward with these critical proceedings. 3G has been a hot issue since I arrived at the Commission, and before, I'm certain. Like my colleagues, I am very excited about what the future holds for wireless technologies in these frequencies.

This Commission has, of course, a large and important role in promoting innovative and efficient uses of the American people's spectrum. It is our responsibility in allocating spectrum and setting service rules to place the highest value on what new uses of spectrum will mean to consumers. I mention this because I hope that no one will think the FCC can magically make the current woes of the wireless industry go away by merely allocating new spectrum. Life is not that simple! More importantly, we should always keep in mind that our job is to create a landscape where Americans can know that the spectrum that they have entrusted to us is used in their best interest, and that the endgame here goes beyond business interests to serve the public interest. If we do our job right here, I believe it will be a win-win for everyone.

I also hope that we will study the European experience with 3G very carefully. Various European countries moved ahead with 3G allocations before we did. Many of these countries allocated large amounts of spectrum to 3G. Despite that, 3G has been less than a success in Europe. What role did government allocations and service rules play? What other factors were at work? We need to know. Those who don't study history are condemned to repeat it.

But all that comes in the future. Today, the Commission has done the right thing, and has started the ball rolling on making spectrum available for exciting new technologies. I know that the negotiations over 3G spectrum were tough, and that the wireless industry was under some heavy pressures regarding things it may have wanted, and I hope those negotiations ended with the right result. We'll see.

What I can't wait to see is what all the amazing innovators in the communications industry come up with for these frequencies. From cellular to PCS to satellite to Wi-Fi, they have consistently brought us exciting new technologies that pushed the envelope. We will have done our job well if our actions today result in more such advances.

Thank you.