

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL

Re: *Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band* (rel. December 11, 2002).

Americans have always been pioneers. We have used technology to open up the West, to explore the seas, and to enter space. Just as the American entrepreneurial spirit compelled those new frontiers, so must the Commission explore new spectrum frontiers made possible by technological change. Today's item does just that. Technological advances now allow "smart" low power devices to communicate in spectral open spaces that were previously closed to development. These technological advances are great news for the American people. Our goal in today's item is to allow for the more efficient and comprehensive use of the spectrum resource while not interfering with existing services. The Commission's Spectrum Policy Task Force Report provided some guideposts to achieving that goal. Among the Task Force's key findings was the obvious success of our current unlicensed spectrum policy model. Indeed, unlicensed devices have become ubiquitous, with estimated sales of over \$2 billion. With that lesson in hand, whether or not we put in place policies that build on that success is the question we begin to answer today.