

## **SEPARATE STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER KATHLEEN Q. ABERNATHY**

*Re: Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz Band, Notice of Inquiry (adopted December 11, 2002)*

I believe the power of unlicensed spectrum services – and the corresponding rise in consumer welfare – is one of the great success stories of U.S. telecommunications policy. Unlicensed devices have rapidly become commonplace in the American home and office; they are relied upon for many everyday functions in consumers' lives. Unlicensed devices include cordless phones, computers, baby monitors, garage door openers, PDAs, and wireless local area networks. I recently have spoken about the need for the Commission and industry to think creatively and explore ways to create new unlicensed opportunities. This NOI represents an important step in that direction. We are striving to promote two important interests: ensuring that incumbents are protected from harmful interference and allowing innovative technologies to take advantage of unused spectrum. Since we are charged with effectively and efficiently harnessing the spectrum resource, the Commission must explore new ways to tap into that resource, consistent with our core responsibility to protect licensed users from harmful interference.