

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

*Re: Facilitating the Provision of Spectrum-Based Services to Rural Areas and Promoting Opportunities for Rural Telephone Companies To Provide Spectrum-Based Services*

Wireless facilities-based providers are delivering remarkable competition and innovation in rural markets. However, just because the Commission's policies work, does not mean they cannot work better.

Our actions over the past few months dramatically illustrate our resolve to bring competitive, quality, spectrum-based services to rural America. Last month alone, we supported a series of items that: advanced digital TV deployment in rural America, expanded outreach to underserved communities, reported on the state of rural broadband deployment, reported on our partnership with RUS, and announced the Rural Wireless Internet Service Provider Forum for September 18. And today, three items on the agenda – including this one – have elements aimed at advancing the Commission's rural-service vision.

The Notice we adopt today includes initiatives and policies aimed directly at facilitating access to capital and lowering regulatory and market barriers to spectrum and infrastructure in rural areas. This Notice also seeks comment on how we can clarify rules, minimize regulatory costs, and provide other incentives to promote service to rural markets. While a number of past Commission measures have been intended to foster the deployment of wireless services throughout the country, the Notice we adopt today for the first time expands upon these measures and will help ensure that rural Americans can experience the breadth of wireless service offerings currently available and further fulfill the Commission's statutory mandate to make available, in a rapid and efficient manner, communications services to all Americans.