

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Facilitating the Provision of Spectrum-Based Services to Rural Areas and Promoting Opportunities for Rural Telephone Companies to Provide Spectrum-Based Services (WT Docket No. 02-381); 2000 Biennial Regulatory Review Spectrum Aggregation Limits for Commercial Mobile Radio Services (WT Docket No. 01-14); and Increasing Flexibility to Promote Access to and the Efficient and Intensive Use of Spectrum and the Widespread Deployment of Wireless Services, and to Facilitate Capital Formation.

I have always maintained that one of the Commission's most important priorities is to facilitate the deployment of communications services in rural America. Wireless services are particularly critical in rural communities where such technologies may provide not only the most efficient, but sometimes the only practical method of offering communications services. Accordingly, it is crucial that we fulfill our obligation to promote the development and rapid deployment of wireless services in rural America.

The item we consider today raises a broad set of questions, ranging from how to define "rural," to whether technical changes such as modified power limits in rural areas will further our goals, to requesting input on how we can maximize our partnership with the USDA and the Rural Utilities Services program. I am glad we are asking these questions and addressing these important issues. I look forward to seeing the comments responding to this NPRM.