

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

October 16, 2003

*Re: Allocation and Service Rules for the 71-76 GHz, 81-86 GHz and 92-95 GHz Bands; Loea Communications Corporation Petition for Rulemaking (Report and Order; WT Doc No. 02-146; RM-10288)*

Thanks to the Bureau for bringing us this item. It's surely good news that consumers will soon be able to make use of spectrum in the 70, 80, and 90 GHz range. My hope is that this decision will promote investment and assist us in bringing new broadband service to consumers. I am also pleased that we decide to extend our use of the unlicensed spectrum concept in portions of the 90 GHz band. I believe that we should look to using the unlicensed tool even more than we do today, consistent always, of course, with whatever public interest safeguards may be necessary.

I also want to note that this spectrum is licensed in a way that will encourage companies to initiate service without the need for extensive Commission action. And our licensing scheme recognizes the unique interference characteristics of this spectrum.

Spurring the use of this new technology will hopefully, one day, allow for more choices of broadband providers than those narrow choices available to consumers and businesses today. But we should never count our chickens before they hatch. Perhaps one day we will see millimeter wave wireless broadband, along with powerline broadband and other technologies, providing real intermodal competition. I also hope that these new technologies will not be dominated by the few companies that dominate currently available broadband technologies, and that they thereby reach their competitive potential. But until that wonderful day arrives, I hope that the Commission will not mistake the promise of future competition with the reality of today's limited competition when we make policy.

So I congratulate the Wireless Bureau for this item, and I'm eager to see the great things that this band brings us.