

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

Re: Revision of the Commission's Rules To Ensure Compatibility With Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems, Report and Order and Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, CC Docket No. 94-102, CC Docket No. 99-67

I am pleased with much of this item. 911 service is a vitally important means for Americans to respond to a host of emergencies. And enhanced 911 (or E911), which provides public safety officials information on the caller's physical location, has made 911 service even more valuable. While we still have a long way to go to make nationwide E911 deployment a reality, this item takes some important steps by addressing some gaps in our E911 rules. Among other things, the item discusses the E911 obligations of mobile satellite services, telematics services, resold and pre-paid services, and disposable phones. I am hopeful that, through this item, we have provided some needed regulatory clarity.

I am disappointed, however, in our treatment of multi-line telephone systems (MLTS). 911 calls made by MLTS have posed significant problems. A phone in a large company's MLTS might be anywhere in the country, and public safety officials will have no way of knowing where the phone is. I have heard multiple stories of emergency personnel showing up in the wrong place as the result of insufficient information from an MLTS. Indeed, today the Commission acknowledges that the lack of effective implementation of MLTS E911 may be an unacceptable gap in the emergency call system. Nevertheless, we fail to take any concrete actions, instead posing questions in another further notice.

I appreciate that some states have made real strides in addressing the MLTS problem and that there are outstanding questions about the legality and wisdom of the Commission taking action. However, I am concerned by the fact that we have been seeking comment on these issues since at least 1994. And a year ago, I spoke on the importance of resolving the MLTS problem. All the while, many Americans dialing 911 from an MLTS have faced an unacceptable level of protection. I thus think we need to resolve this further proceeding as soon as is practicable.