

**OPENING REMARKS OF  
COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN  
AT THE FCC's VOICE OVER INTERNET PROTOCOL (VoIP) FORUM  
December 1, 2003**

Good morning, and thank you to all the panelists for taking time out of your busy schedules to be with us today. Today's forum begins the dialogue on the status of VoIP services.

When confronted with such fundamental questions as those raised by VoIP, the Commission's paramount task is to facilitate market certainty and stability by setting out a clear regulatory framework. Regulatory certainty in this area should help continue to spur investment in facilities-based local competition and encourage the deployment of new services. As we approach these issues, we should be cautious so as not to unintentionally place economic regulations on these new services. Thus, I support the Chairman's commitment to address and clarify the regulatory status of VoIP services.

Today's discussion is critical to encouraging local competition and promoting greater access to these services for all Americans. With each passing day, the deployment of VoIP services raises difficult questions regarding its potential to displace traditional telephony services. As VoIP moves towards becoming a substitute for traditional telephony services, many have raised questions and concerns regarding the obligations to provide traditional public safety services such as 911 and the ability to comply with the law enforcement requirements of CALEA. I am interested to learn about the latest developments regarding the ability of VoIP service providers to provide these core public safety and law enforcement functions.

Addressing the regulatory status of VoIP services, as with other local competition issues, requires tremendous cooperation at the state and federal level. Thus, I am particularly pleased to see that Commissioner Carl Wood of California and Commissioner Charles Davidson of Florida are able to participate in today's forum and provide us insight into how states are dealing with these issues.

I am eager to hear the experiences and ideas of the Commissioners and the other panelists here today. Again, thank you all for coming today, and I look forward to working with you on these important issues and continuing the dialogue on these issues in the future.