

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

*Re: Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands (ET Docket No. 04-186);
Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz
Band (ET Docket No. 02-380), Notice of Proposed Rule Making*

We continue to examine ways to advance broadband deployment and further the goal of universal access. Today's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking proposes a smart solution that would expand the availability of spectrum for new advanced and innovative services.

The Commission takes a hard look at the use of unlicensed devices operating on unused broadcast television spectrum in conjunction with smart radio technology. This technology has the potential to provide greater service to the American public. It promises to dramatically increase the availability and quality of wireless Internet connections – the equivalent of doubling the number of lanes on a congested highway.

Such technologies could create the same explosion in new business and growth that we have seen in the case of WiFi and Bluetooth. For instance, it could help bring high-speed Internet services to rural communities without the cables or wires. Existing broadcasters will also find benefits as they explore more advanced television services.

Our overarching goal in this proceeding is to find the most efficient and comprehensive use of the spectrum resource while not interfering with existing services.

The proposals we adopt today are balanced and take into account the competing needs of all affected spectrum users. They ensure the most efficient spectrum use; protect broadcasters and other authorized users in TV bands from harmful interference, and accords appropriate deference to the ongoing DTV transition.