



**B**roadband empowers people over centralized institutions. Consumers are increasingly choosing how to communicate instead of having that choice dictated to them by regulators or monopoly providers. Personalized applications are riding atop the robust deployment efforts of the stakeholders described in our *Fourth 706 Report*. It is in that context that I am very pleased to support the Report's finding that the overall goal of section 706 is met, and that first-generation advanced telecommunications capability is being deployed on a reasonable and timely basis to all Americans.

This Report will serve as a milestone that we have indeed turned the corner on the digital migration. Innovative entrepreneurs are replacing yesterday's single-purpose networks with different types of high-speed, full-service digital networks, using such technologies as Wi-Fi, fiber-to-the-home, broadband over power lines, and satellite. By making licensed and unlicensed spectrum available for wireless broadband uses, we have seen an explosion of wireless access points using technologies (such as EvDO and WiMax) that allow unfettered Internet access around the country.

Since I became Chairman, 36 million Americans have signed up for high-speed service. Across America, the availability of ubiquitous, reliable broadband access is changing the way we work and live. Overall, 48 million adults use high-speed connections in the home, representing growth of 60 percent from a year earlier. And, as the Report catalogues and USA Today recently trumpeted, "Internet-based phone services are taking off by offering cut-rate prices and funky features." Disruptive VoIP services are acting as a demand-driver for broadband connections, lighting the industry's fuse, and exciting a moribund market.

The Commission has taken key steps to promote broadband deployment. We removed unbundling requirements on newly deployed fiber-to-the-home, where there is competition from cable, which clears the way for telephone companies to deploy infrastructure to serve the broadband and video needs of the 21st century. On my travels across the country, I continue to be amazed by the new services designed for rural Americans. Our efforts to unlock the potential of the rural healthcare program by expanding the Commission's eligibility criteria are generating results. In the past year, I witnessed the transformative potential of telemedicine. Since the issuance of our last Report, the Commission has adopted a variety of measures to introduce regulatory flexibility for rural licenses to increase wireless access to consumers. The Commission also has proposed amendments to make efficient use of the 3650 MHz band, which may effectively support telemedicine in rural or underserved areas as well as on Native American Tribal Lands. We will continue our ongoing program of on-site forums for exploring how best to make affordable broadband access available to rural America.

Our work, however, is not done. Americans deserve information at the speed of light—and it is the country's next challenge to deploy a network that is at least as capable as any other nation's. The Commission's role—and my mission—is to continue to champion and facilitate higher-speed, more capable platforms that can run the applications of tomorrow. As regulators, we must embrace the reality that the torrent of change from new broadband technologies has arrived, is unstoppable, and will accelerate over the years ahead. We have a clear vision for this migration to advanced platforms: stimulate investment in next-generation architectures, apply a light hand and let entrepreneurs bring the future to the people. This Report shows that our digital migration vision is working for America.

