



NEWS

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See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN COMMENTS ON COMMISSION POLICY STATEMENT

I have long believed that consumers should be able to use their broadband internet access service to access any content on the internet.¹ Consumers have demanded this ability, and cable and telephone companies have delivered it. In a competitive marketplace, providers must do so. They provide a service that consumers want, or they do not succeed. The steps we take today to place all broadband internet access providers on a level playing field will make this marketplace only more competitive, further strengthening the forces that best deliver choice, affordability, innovation, and quality to consumers.

The policy statement we adopt today lists four principles that are based on this fundamental ability to access any website available to the public. While policy statements do not establish rules nor are they enforceable documents, today's statement does reflect core beliefs that each member of this Commission holds regarding how broadband internet access should function.

Cable and telephone companies have led the way in bringing broadband to millions of Americans. The evidence today is that their internet access consumers have the ability to reach any internet content. Indeed, cable and telephone companies' practices already track well the internet principles we endorse today. I remain confident that the marketplace will continue to ensure that these principles are maintained. I also am confident, therefore, that regulation is not, nor will be, required.

¹ Subject, of course, to the bandwidth limits and quality of service terms of the particular Internet access service plan that they have chosen to purchase.