

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: *Implementation of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Petition for Rulemaking to Enhance Security and Authentication Standards for Access to Customer Proprietary Network Information*, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (CC Docket No. 96-115, RM-11277)

The brokerage of personal information – whether it be personal identity, financial records, or a list of your phone calls – is intolerable. “Pretexting” is nothing more than stealing; robbing consumers in a variety of slick ways of their most personal information.

I support this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Chairman Martin’s call for swift action by this Commission to see that we are doing our part to protect the consumers who look to us to ensure that the proper rules are in place to keep their personal phone data confidential. State Attorneys General have been very active pursuing the companies behind these criminal acts, and I commend them for their efforts. Also, our partners at the Federal Trade Commission have been actively investigating the practice of fraudulently obtaining and selling personal data, including call records.

While my philosophy leans towards market-based solutions with minimal government intervention, this issue provides a perfect example of the appropriateness of government intervention, investigation, and enforcement. Indeed, national security is of utmost importance, but so is personal security. We must be as vigilant to protect our personal digital borders as we are our nation’s physical borders.

The action we take today should send a clear message to information snatchers – who are attacking our citizens in the privacy of their own homes – that we take seriously our obligation to protect consumers’ most personal information.