

STATEMENT OF CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN

Re: In the Matter of Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands; Revision of the Commission's Rules to Ensure Compatibility with Enhanced 911 Emergency Calling Systems; Section 68.4(a) of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Telephones (WT Docket Nos. 06-150, 01-309, and CC Docket No. 94-102), FCC 06-114

With today's action, the Commission continues its efforts to provide consumers with new and advanced wireless services by making spectrum available for wireless broadband.

The Commission will soon auction 90 MHz of spectrum in the Advanced Wireless Services band. In this item, we seek comment on our service rules for the 700 MHz band, which is similarly well-suited for the provision of wireless broadband services and must be auctioned for commercial use by January 28, 2008. We are reevaluating our service rules for this band to account for Congress' recent adoption of digital television legislation and the needs of both small and large service providers. We also intend to ensure that service providers in this band and other broadband bands comply with our E911 and hearing aid-compatibility rules.

I expect that wireless services will continue to be an increasing part of broadband service deployment. Consumers are increasingly demanding access to broadband services any time they want it, wherever they want it. This spectrum will help bring consumers everywhere more opportunities to use these services both at home and on the go.