

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

*Re: Applications of Midwest Wireless Holdings L.L.C. and ALLTEL Communications, Inc.
For Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, WT Docket No. 05-339,
Memorandum Opinion and Order.*

I approve this merger for substantially the same reasons I gave in approving in the larger and analytically comparable merger between ALLTEL and Western Wireless last year. In light of the divestitures required by the Department of Justice, I am satisfied that this merger will not reduce competition below the level we have found acceptable in earlier mergers.

I am also troubled by ALLTEL's disappointing penetration rate of E911-enabled handsets. As I explained in our prior decision, our merger standards require us to look at "citizenship, character, financial, technical, and other qualifications" and I believe that a corporation's compliance with our public safety regulations fit squarely under this rubric.