

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: United Power Line Council's Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding the Classification of Broadband over Power Line Internet Access Service as an Information Service, WC Docket No. 06-10

With today's order the Commission takes another important step to promote the deployment of broadband infrastructure. Specifically, by finding that broadband over power line (BPL) Internet access services are information services, the Commission provides the regulatory certainty necessary to foster competition between different broadband platform providers. I believe that it is the Commission's responsibility to help ensure technological and competitive neutrality in communications markets. Accordingly, I believe that all providers of the same service must be treated in the same manner regardless of the technology that they employ. I am therefore pleased that the Commission has recognized that Internet access services provided over broadband power lines, like those provided over cable plant and wireline facilities, are information services.

The Commission's broadband statistics show that subscribers to BPL Internet access services, although few in number overall, increased by nearly 200% in 2005. These services hold great promise for consumers. It is, therefore, critical that the Commission take appropriate action to foster their development. Just a few months ago, we took action to clarify our technical rules pertaining to BPL service. And, today, we clarify their legal status. It is my hope that these actions will promote the growth and competitiveness of this service. By encouraging the development of new technologies, such as BPL, we can best achieve the President's goal of universal broadband by the end of 2007.