

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: *Petition of the United Power Line Council for Declaratory Ruling Regarding the Classification of Broadband over Power Line Internet Access Service as an Information Service*

Along with my colleagues, I have had the opportunity to review BPL demonstrations both in Keller, Texas, and, locally, in Potomac, Maryland. The possibilities created by broadband over power line (BPL) technology are truly amazing. Imagine being able to plug into high-speed Internet wherever there's an electrical outlet. The presence of another broadband platform could help to bolster competition and, hopefully, lower prices for consumers, especially in rural communities. Plus, the presence of an additional data network would help serve an important homeland security function, adding redundancy to our critical infrastructure – this is the potential of BPL, and it is exciting.

This item seeks to eliminate some of the regulatory uncertainty regarding BPL-enabled Internet access service by classifying it as an “information service.” In doing so, we remove significant regulatory uncertainty and place this service on a level playing field with both DSL and cable modem service, both already classified as information services. This is consistent with the Commission's prior actions, and also succeeds in pursuing our objectives while applying only a light regulatory touch. For these reasons, I support this item.