

**Opening Remarks of FCC Chairman Kevin Martin to the
Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in a Digital Age
December 21, 2006**

Welcome to this meeting of the re-chartered Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in a Digital Age.

I first want to thank all of you for agreeing to volunteer your time and energy to serve on this important committee.

It is a testimony to the importance of this issue that the many highly-qualified individuals here today, all of whom shoulder other major responsibilities, and are willing to take on the responsibility of developing recommendations regarding policies and practices that will further enhance the ability of all Americans, including minorities and women, to participate in the communications industry.

Congress has tasked the Commission with the responsibility for bringing the benefits of communications services to all Americans. As part of this mandate, the Commission is also charged with promoting policies that favor diversity of media voices, vigorous economic competition and technological advancement.

These are responsibilities that the Commission takes seriously. Expanding the reach of broadband and other advanced communications services has been my top priority as Chairman and I look forward to working with this Committee on

ways to ensure that all Americans have opportunities to participate in the deployment of these new technologies.

The Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age brings together experts from various sectors of the communications industry, including minority-owned companies, the finance sector and organizations that are committed to ensuring the participation of minorities and women in the communications industry.

I would like to particularly thank Henry Rivera for agreeing to serve as Chair of the re-chartered Diversity Committee. I am also please that the Minority Media & Telecommunications Council, the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, the Latino Coalition and American Women in Radio and Television are represented on this Committee.

Together, all of these experts will work to find ways for the Commission to ensure that all Americans, including minorities and women, have opportunities to participate in all segments of the communications industry, particularly in the development and expansion of new technologies.

I look forward to working with the members of the Diversity Committee.
Again, I'd like to thank you for your service on this Committee. The Commission staff stands ready to assist the Committee in any way we can.

Thank you.