

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. MCDOWELL

Re: Exclusive Service Contracts for Provision of Video Services in Multiple Dwelling Units and Other Real Estate Developments, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, MB Docket -07-51

In this Notice, we seek comment regarding the current market environment for video service providers with respect to obtaining access to multiple dwelling units (MDUs) and other real estate developments. Specifically, we want to uncover whether there is a need for the Commission to regulate exclusive contracts for the provision of video services and whether the Commission has the authority to craft such regulations. With the advent of the “triple play” of video, voice and high-speed Internet access services being offered by cable, telephone and other companies, it is important that the Commission’s regulations treat all competitors the same when possible. I am pleased that this item examines building access issues in a platform neutral manner with respect to all video providers, be they telephone companies, incumbent cable providers, over-builders or others. Additionally, I think it is appropriate and constructive that the Commission has committed to refreshing the record in the long-pending Competitive Networks proceeding, in which we sought comment regarding MDU access and exclusive contracts for telephone service providers. I hope that competition for all services, and across all platforms, does not stop, literally, at the doorstep of apartment and office buildings across America.

I thank the Chairman for his leadership in this area and I am delighted to support this NPRM.