

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: In the Matter of Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, EB Docket No. 06-119, WC Docket No. 06-63. Second Report and Order (FCC 07-107)

Today, the Commission takes action to implement the recommendations of the Independent Katrina panel. Experts on the panel from all sectors of the communications industry and leading public safety organizations worked hard to study the impact of the disaster and focus the Commission's attention on proposals that would improve our response and recovery efforts for the future.

The recommendations we adopt today address a wide range of initiatives designed to improve disaster preparedness, network reliability and resilience, and communications among emergency responders. In particular, we require local exchange carriers and CMRS providers to have an emergency back-up power source for certain critical network facilities and we also require these service providers and VoIP providers file a report with the Commission on the resiliency and reliability of their 911 networks or systems.

I am pleased that, upon release of the Panel's final recommendations, the Public Safety Bureau moved quickly to begin the process of implementing many of these recommendations. I look forward to receiving the Bureau's first full progress report this fall, and commit to continue to work with my colleagues to ensure that this Commission remains vigilant to improve communications for the needs of emergency preparedness and response.

I would again like to thank all the members of the Katrina panel for their public service and dedication. The American public has benefited greatly from the thoughtful contributions made by all the industry and public safety participants who gave their time and effort in this endeavor.

I would also like to thank Nancy Victory for her leadership as Chair of the panel. Her knowledge and expertise helped guide the panel and ensure that it would deliver a quality work product within a very tight timeframe. Finally, I would also like to express my appreciation to my fellow Commissioners for their continued support of the work of the Panel, and the efforts of our Public Safety Bureau as it enacts the improvements we adopt today.

