

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

**Re: Early Termination Fees
November 8, 2007**

I was pleased to see two announcements this week, one by Sprint Nextel and one by T-Mobile, in which these carriers described plans to prorate Early Termination Fees (ETFs) for wireless consumers. This news, along with earlier announcements of similar policies by AT&T and Verizon Wireless, means that the vast majority of Americans subscribing to wireless services will have even more choices in the wireless market. I am encouraged that industry has stepped up to address an issue that consumers and state commissioners have been concerned about for some time. In such a competitive market, we should look first to industry, rather than government regulation, to offer consumers the price and service options that best meet their needs. These recent announcements are further indication that providers are doing just that.