

## STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE

*Re: Leased Commercial Access; Development of Competition and Diversity in Video Programming Distribution and Carriage*

Allowing programmers to lease time on cable channels is yet another way the FCC encourages program diversity and the dissemination of a variety of viewpoints. It also allows local programmers to have access to cable's audience for the promotion of products and services, as well as airing of local community events. We appreciate the cooperation of cable operators in making these channels available.

In light of the concerns that have been raised with regard to the prices charged by cable for the use of these channels, I believe we should seek comment on whether our maximum allowable rate should be changed from the average implicit fee to the marginal implicit fee. Just as we did in 1996, when we initially lowered the maximum allowable rate for carriage, we should ask that interested parties analyze the advantages and disadvantages of this new rate formula. We should also seek input on whether lowering the maximum allowable rate will increase the number of leased access programmers on cable's systems.

Because we fail to seek comment on these important changes, I respectfully dissent.