



NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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FCC COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS QUESTIONS NTIA'S BROADBAND REPORT

In response to the National Telecommunications and Information Administration's (NTIA) report entitled "Networked Nation: Broadband in America 2007," FCC Commissioner Michael J. Copps issued the following statement:

"Networked Nation? If the United States were a networked nation consumers would be paying half as much for broadband connections 20 times as fast. That's what many consumers around the globe get. Instead, NTIA slices and dices bad data (full disclosure: much of it from the FCC) in ever more outlandish ways to reach the conclusion that all is well – don't worry, be happy. If we spent more time developing strategies for truly ubiquitous and affordable broadband rather than watching our international competitors lap us at every turn, we actually might have something to crow about.

"I take particular issue with the report's claim that broadband problems exist only in rural and sparsely-populated 'pockets' of America. Of course we need to get serious about expanding the availability of broadband to all Americans no matter where they live. But the broadband system we have today is a problem even for those of us who live in densely populated metropolitan areas like Chicago, Los Angeles, and Washington D.C. – where customers pay far too much for speeds that are turtle-slow by international standards.

"NTIA is swimming upstream against the tide of independent reports that seem to come out daily finding that when it comes to broadband, we are falling further and further behind. Whether it is the OECD ranking of 15th in the world or the countless other rankings showing even worse results, this is not where the United States needs to be."