

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

Re: Promotion of Competitive Networks in Local Telecommunications Networks, WT Docket No. 99-217, Report and Order (Mar. 19, 2008).

Robust and fair competition across the communications landscape brings with it the benefits of consumer choice, lower prices, and greater innovation. So I am pleased to support this Order which eliminates a potential barrier to competition and choice in telecommunications service for the millions of Americans who live in apartment buildings, condominiums, and other so-called multiple tenant environments (MTEs).

This Order addresses the use of exclusive agreements between providers of telecommunications services and owners of residential MTEs. By finding that exclusive access arrangements amount to an unreasonable practice under the Communications Act, we remove a potential barrier that could hinder new entrants from offering telecommunications services to residential consumers in MTEs.

This Order builds on the steps we took last year to improve consumers' access to video services. In last year's Order, we banned the use of exclusive access arrangements for the provision of video services to multiple dwelling units. I am encouraged that we address such contracts for telecommunications services today. Whether it is voice or video, people living in apartment buildings and condominiums should not be shackled to one provider. This action alone will not solve our competition and broadband challenges, but it takes a worthy step by opening the door for many people to exercise their right to choose their own provider.