

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Development of Nationwide Broadband Data to Evaluate Reasonable and Timely Deployment of Advanced Services to All Americans, Improvement of Wireless Broadband Subscribership Data, and Development of Data on Interconnected Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) Subscribership, WC Docket No. 07-38

Re: Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, GN Docket No. 07-45

Since becoming Chairman, I have made broadband deployment the Commission's top priority. Broadband technology is a key driver of economic growth. The ability to share increasing amounts of information at greater and greater speeds, increases productivity, facilitates interstate commerce, and helps drive innovation. But perhaps most important, broadband has the potential to affect almost every aspect of our lives – from where we work, to how we educate our children and increasingly to the way healthcare is delivered.

Continued broadband deployment and infrastructure investment is vital to this country's economic growth. The Commission has developed a number of policies to encourage the deployment of broadband. We have removed regulatory obstacles that discouraged infrastructure investment and slowed deployment. We have classified DSL, BPL and Wireless broadband as "information services" not subject to legacy regulations. We have streamlined the franchise process for new entrants and incumbent cable providers and banned exclusive contracts in apartment buildings to spur competition that is essential to further investment in underlying infrastructure for broadband. We initiated a nationwide pilot program for the deployment of broadband infrastructure for healthcare facilities. We have also just completed the largest auction in FCC history of spectrum that is ideally suited to broadband.

The United States is the largest broadband market in the world and our newest report finds continued growth. During the first half of 2007, high speed lines increased by 22 percent, from over 82 million to over 100 million lines. Since I joined the Commission, these lines have grown 950% from just over 9 million lines to over 100 million lines. Our analysis indicates that more than 99% of the country's population lives in the more than 99% of Zip Codes where a provider reports having at least one high-speed service subscriber. Additionally, nationwide, we estimate that high-speed DSL connections were available to 82% of the households to whom ILECs provide local phone service as of the end of June 2007. High-speed cable modem service was available to 96% of the households to whom cable operators provide cable TV service. This is good news for consumers and good news for the country. Accordingly, I support the conclusion in the Section 706 report that broadband services are currently being deployed to all Americans in a reasonable and timely fashion.

But there is certainly more work to be done. That is why I am pleased the Commission today adopts an Order to collect dramatically improved data on broadband services. This improved data will enable us to better identify and analyze the deployment of broadband throughout the nation.

As the importance of broadband continues to increase, it is important that we understand better how and where broadband is being deployed by providers and used by consumers. Today's Order will require detailed subscribership information on a local level and detailed information about the download and upload speeds of broadband services offered to consumers. Specifically, we will collect information in the following tiers of service:

- First Generation data: 200k up to 768k
- Basic Broadband : 768k to 1.5mbps
- 1.5mbps to 3.0mbps
- 3.0mbps to 6.0 mbps
- 6.0mbps and above

Additionally, we conclude that we will obtain and map additional information about broadband service availability to better direct resources toward unserved and underserved areas. Armed with this additional broadband data, the Commission will be better able to assess and promote the deployment of broadband across the nation.

I am pleased that the Commission, by its actions today, continues to take additional steps to further broadband deployment.