

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

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

Broadband deployment to all Americans should be one of our top priorities, and improving our data collection is logically a good first step.

I welcome our efforts to improve our data collection, thereby creating the opportunity for the improved empirical analysis of broadband services and policy. We need to make sure we collect relevant data. The primary goal of improving our data collection ability is to better measure the availability of broadband services across the U.S. so that we can make better-informed policymaking decisions.

Our current ZIP code data provides us with trend information, but as the broadband market has evolved we now want to provide a more complete picture. For the broadband data collection effort to be complete, we need more granular data collection as provided by the rules we adopt today.

Dozens of States have taken on or are exploring the task themselves, particularly through public-private partnerships. My own home State of Tennessee has initiated such an effort. It is important that the Commission not hamper or undermine these initiatives that are being undertaken by State and local governments.

While I fully recognize and support the need for the Commission to continue to update the evolving speeds and definitions of broadband as the marketplace develops, we must also be cognizant of any unintended consequences to programs that rely on our current definitions. To insure that everyone- even those with lower speeds or older technologies- is counted, and also to insure that by adopting new definitions today we do not disrupt any of the funding opportunities- whether through the FCC, the Department of Agriculture, Department of Commerce, Department of Health and Human Services, Department of Education, Appalachian Regional Commission, or even State grants- I would have preferred to move this to the *Further Notice* so that we could be certain these definitional changes are only for the positive. Thus I concur in this section of the Order.