



NEWS

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D. C. 20554

News Media Information 202 / 418-0500
Internet: <http://www.fcc.gov>
TTY: 1-888-835-5322

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).

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
November 5, 2008

NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:
Wayne Leighton at (202) 418-2500

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE

Re: Early Termination Fees

Consumers will be pleased that another cellular provider has announced it will prorate early termination fees (ETFs). Starting this week, Sprint will lower its ETF by \$10 per month after six months of service. With this announcement, all four nationwide wireless providers – which together serve more than 200 million customers – now prorate their ETFs.

In this highly competitive wireless telecommunications market, wireless providers differentiate themselves in terms of size of network, customer service, additional features, “free phones” and even the terms of their ETFs. This announcement by Sprint is simply one more example of how issues such as ETFs can be effectively addressed by industry solutions rather than government regulation.