

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL
ON THE DEPARTURE OF CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

January 15, 2009

Today, I thank Chairman Kevin Martin for his dedication and commitment to the Commission. Public service positions are demanding, and require much time away from home – whether at the agency or on the road. I appreciate the sacrifices Cathie, Kevin, and their two young boys have made during Kevin’s lengthy tenure here – first serving as a legal advisor, commissioner and then as chairman.

During his tenure, the Commission has enjoyed a number of notable accomplishments. For instance, our actions to eliminate unreasonable barriers to entry into the video marketplace, to classify wireless broadband internet access as an information service, to help rural healthcare providers and to open the TV white spaces for new wireless services, come to mind. In addition, Kevin has worked to significantly strengthen the Commission’s role in preparing for and responding to emergencies. I congratulate him on his achievements.

My staff and I give Chairman Martin and his family our kindest regards, with every hope that they will continue to enjoy much happiness and success as they enter the next phase of their lives.