

**STATEMENT OF
JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

Re: In the Matters of Local Number Portability Porting Interval and Validation Requirements, WC Docket No. 07-244, Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket No. 95-116

Today, we are moving to help consumers take their numbers from one carrier to another more quickly and conveniently. Several years ago, we extended our porting requirements to interconnected VoIP providers and asked if we should shorten the current four business day interval for all carriers. At that time, I called on the Commission to reduce the porting interval even more, so that consumers are left waiting no longer than necessary. As many in Congress, among consumer groups, and in the industry have said, there is no doubt that we can do better than four business days. That standard was set more than a decade ago for wireline-to-wireline ports, and four years ago for intermodal ports. That's practically a lifetime ago in this industry where technology moves forward so fast.

So, I am pleased that today we slash the interval from four business days to one. For a number of years now, wireless carriers have been porting numbers between themselves in a matter of hours. While we recognize that there are differences in the back-office systems, the time has come to narrow the gap between wireless-to-wireless ports, and wireline-to-wireline and intermodal ports. Simply put, consumers should be able to port a number quickly no matter who their carrier is.

At the same time that we take a giant step forward to speed the porting process, I am pleased that we have called upon the North American Numbering Council (NANC) to come up with the best way for carriers to work through the sometimes difficult porting process. I also support today's further notice, which asks what further steps we should take to improve the porting process that will build upon the new one-day interval. I am optimistic that this will yield an efficient porting system that will alleviate the potential for anti-competitive gaming that can frustrate the consumer experience. And I am glad that today's order recognizes that all this will not take place overnight. Larger carriers will have nine months to implement the new interval; smaller carriers, who may not have automated their porting systems, will have fifteen months. Further, the order recognizes that those carriers that have porting-specific implementation costs will have avenues to recover those costs.

I want to thank Chairman Copps and his staff, particularly Jennifer Schneider, who have worked tirelessly to create a consensus item that will benefit consumers for years to come. Their leadership has helped us navigate the tricky shoals of this issue. Thanks also to the incredible staff of the Wireline Competition Bureau for helping us wade through the complex technical aspects of this case.