



# NEWS

**Federal Communications Commission**  
**445 12<sup>th</sup> 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. Cir. 1974).

---

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:  
December 3, 2009

News Media Contact:  
Jennifer Schneider at (202) 418-2000

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**  
**ON THE INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4167**  
**THE FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION COLLABORATION ACT**

“I am thrilled by Congressman Bart Stupak's introduction of the Federal Communications Commission Collaboration Act. If there was only one action we could take to reform the FCC, this would be my choice.

“The inability of Commissioners to get together and talk as a group makes zero sense. The statutory bar on more than two Commissioners talking together outside a public meeting has had pernicious and unintended consequences—stifling collaborative discussions among colleagues, delaying timely decision-making, discouraging collegiality and short-changing consumers and the public interest. For eight years I have seen first-hand and up close the heavy costs of this prohibition.

“Elected representatives, cabinet officials, judges and just about everyone else have the opportunity for face-to-face discussion before deciding public issues. I see no reason why Commissioners of the FCC should not have some of the same opportunities at their disposal—especially when balanced, as this legislation is, with specific safeguards designed to preserve transparency. Reaching agreement on the complex issues pending before us is difficult enough in the best of circumstances, but is infinitely more so when we cannot even talk about them among ourselves. Each of the five Commissioners brings to the FCC special experiences and unique talents that we cannot fully leverage without communicating directly with each other.

“The Federal Communications Commission Collaboration Act is a prudent, balanced proposal that recognizes the benefits of permitting the Commission to do its business collectively while maintaining full transparency of the process. Congressman Stupak's bill is timely and spot-on. I thank him for his leadership on this much needed reform and wish him well in seeing it through to enactment.”