

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

Re: *Amendment of the Commission's Rules Governing Hearing Aid-Compatible Mobile Handsets, WT Docket No. 07-250.*

I am pleased to support today's policy statement, order and notice of proposed rulemaking. Workable and effective hearing aid compatibility is a matter that I have supported with enthusiasm throughout my time at the Commission, and I am proud of the leadership role that the Commission continues to play in this area. Coordinating with industry and representatives of citizens with hearing loss, our action today collectively preserves conditions for innovation and investment while also ensuring that these consumers are positioned to enjoy the benefit of new technologies as they are introduced into the marketplace.

I thank the Chairman and my colleagues for their willingness to indulge me by supporting my edits to today's order. The teamwork was outstanding. I am confident that we have created certainty for the marketplace, thereby ensuring a smooth and timely glide path for compliance.

I also congratulate Ruth Milkman and the team from the Wireless Telecommunications Bureau for your efforts here. Thanks to all of you for your creativity and thoughtful work.