

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MEREDITH ATTWELL BAKER**

Re: *Service Rules for the 698-746, 747-762 and 777-792 MHz Bands, WT Docket No. 06-150; Implementing a Nationwide, Broadband, Interoperable Public Safety Network in the 700 MHz Band, PS Docket No. 06-229; and Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules, WP Docket No. 07-100.*

I am pleased today to support an Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that takes us closer to our goal of establishing a nationwide, interoperable, wireless public safety broadband network. By requiring a common air interface—LTE—and specifying elements of the LTE standard for inclusion in each network deployment, this Order provides much needed guidance to members of the public safety community deploying or planning to deploy broadband networks. Our action today will help public safety officials select with certainty technology options that not only address their needs but also provide and support interoperability across the country. As such, it is truly an important step forward.

The accompanying Notice asks significant additional questions about further technical and operational considerations for public safety broadband networks. The Bureau's thoughtful and comprehensive analysis of the next set of critical deployment issues to be addressed reflects the complexity of the task before us, and before public safety.

State-of-the-art wireless broadband networks, which include a significant backhaul component, are complex undertakings. We should never forget their ability to interoperate is fundamentally a technological rather than a political question. Due deference must be paid to technical experts, and to the guidelines they establish.

I would like to thank everyone in the Bureau for all their hard, unfaltering dedication to what has often been difficult work. I am glad for the comments and participation of so many interested parties. In addition to the experts from industry and the public safety community, I would also like to acknowledge the work of the Departments of Justice and Homeland Security and NTIA. Interoperability is critical but we cannot get there without interagency cooperation. I would also like to recognize the input from my friends at the Public Safety Communications Research program in Boulder, Colorado at the Department of Commerce Labs. I am glad we are able to leverage all of your considerable expertise. It is hard to overestimate how important this is.