

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

Re: Facilitating Opportunities for Flexible, Efficient, and Reliable Spectrum Use Employing Cognitive Radio Technologies; ET Docket No. 03-108

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of helping the Office of Engineering and Technology open its workshop on cognitive radio technologies. At that time, I remarked that cognitive radios can potentially play a key role in shaping our spectrum use in the future. I believe that these technologies should lead to the advent of smarter unlicensed devices that make greater use of spectrum than is possible today. Cognitive radios may also provide licensees with innovative ways to use their current spectrum more efficiently, and to lease their spectrum more easily on the secondary market. I had the opportunity to see cognitive radios demonstrated during the past year and am just amazed by their potential.

It is for all of these reasons that I am so pleased this item on cognitive radios is before us today. I recently restated my interest in having the Commission make more of an effort to get spectrum in the hands of people who are ready and willing to use it. This is such a timely discussion of the very latest radio technologies and of how we can best harness these developments to improve access to spectrum by those providers who want to serve underserved areas. Spectrum is a finite public resource. And in order to improve our country's use of it, we need to improve access to spectrum-based services, and this effort will facilitate that process.

I am particularly pleased with our proposal to allow higher power operation for unlicensed devices operating in rural and other areas of low spectrum use. We heard last month at our wireless ISP forum that operators across the country need improved access to spectrum. Improving access to spectrum can drive broadband deployment deeper and farther into all parts of America. This item takes such an important step in making that broadband deployment more of a reality.

I believe that cognitive radios will play an important role in "spectrum facilitation." That means stripping away barriers – regulatory, economic, or technical – to get spectrum into the hands of operators serving consumers at the most local levels. Cognitive radios can literally leapfrog the technical and legal problems that currently hamper many of today's spectrum access opportunities. Spectrum policy is a two-sided coin: a framework for innovation on one side, with spectrum facilitation on the other.

I also find the discussion of interruptible spectrum leasing very interesting. Such a development may enable previously reluctant licensees to explore a technological fix to address some of the current challenges of spectrum leasing. While I remain unsure that we should actually allow public safety licensees to potentially lease their spectrum to commercial providers, I appreciate the value in having a discussion on the technical aspects of interruptible spectrum leasing and its possible use by public safety licensees.