

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *Biennial Regulatory Review of Regulations Administered by the Wireline
Competition Bureau (WC Docket No. 02-313)*

I support today's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking. In it, we take appropriate steps to clean up and refresh our rules. Nonetheless, I question the wisdom of seeking comment on the continuing need for Section 1.815 of our rules. How can it be that at a time when we are trumpeting the significance of our Advisory Committee on Diversity for Communications in the Digital Age, we also are suggesting that information gathering about the diversity of the telecommunications work force is no longer in the public interest? It looks like one hand of the agency is not talking to the other. The information collected pursuant to this rule is exactly the kind of granular data the Committee will find useful to complete its mission. I fear efforts like this one may emasculate this new group and make their already difficult task more complex.