

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

*Re: In the Matter of Extending Wireless Telecommunications Services  
to Tribal Lands; WT Docket No. 99-266*

My family's presence on the Great Plains has endured for four generations. I grew up in South Dakota, which also is home to more than 62,000 American Indians. I feel duty-bound by my heritage to ensure that the benefits of the most advanced telecommunications reach all Americans, particularly those who live on tribal lands.

I fully endorse the previous Commission's decision to provide incentives for wireless telecommunications carriers to serve individuals living on tribal lands. I also support today's decision to extend the time period during which winning bidders can negotiate with tribes to obtain the certification required for obtaining a bidding credit.

I believe, however, that we need to explore additional modifications to the tribal lands bidding credit system in order to ensure that the credit is utilized to its fullest possible extent. We must do more as an agency to support the deployment of wireless services in tribal areas, particularly those that are underserved by traditional wireline services. This proceeding represents one of our best opportunities to truly make a difference to the types of communications services available on tribal lands.

The order indicates that since the inception of the tribal lands bidding credit, there have been 10 auctions, with 375 winning bidders purchasing 10,479 licenses. While 27 winning bidders to date have initially indicated that they would be seeking the tribal lands credit, of those applicants, only five have submitted the required certification.

I strongly support the Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which includes questions regarding the construction period associated with the bidding credit and the size of the discount offered by the tribal land bidding credit program. Given that the program has met with such limited success, it may be that the incentives just are not enough.

Finally, I strongly encourage interested tribes and wireless carriers to participate in this proceeding and the several other proceedings referenced in the item that are looking at service area sizes and performance requirements. The Commission wants to hear from you, so that we can learn how best to facilitate and improve wireless service on tribal lands.