

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Broadcast Localism, Notice of Inquiry (June 7, 2004)

I support this Notice of Inquiry into the manner and extent to which broadcasters are serving their local communities. I write separately to address an issue critical to a broadcaster's ability to serve its local community: an affiliate's right to reject network programming. Three years ago, the Network Affiliated Stations Alliance filed a motion for declaratory ruling asking us to clarify that our rules protect an affiliate's ability to refuse to air network programming when, for instance, the licensee believes it is unsuitable for the local community, or when another program is of greater local importance. Since that time, I have been calling on the Commission to resolve this and other questions contained in that motion. This Commission states in this Notice today that we "intend to issue the requested declaratory ruling expeditiously." I hope we resolve this issue soon.