

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

*Re: Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket No. 95-116.*

Late last year, we made it easier than ever to cut the cord. By firmly endorsing a customer's right to untether themselves from the wireline network – and take their telephone number with them – we eliminated impediments to competition between wireline and wireless service. Today's item takes another step toward reducing the amount of time it takes for customers to port their phone number between their wireline and wireless phones. This action is particularly important as more and more consumers take their wireline phone numbers to competing VoIP services. I am determined to address this and any other regulatory impediment to the widespread adoption of VoIP applications.

Specifically, this Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (Notice) seeks comment on the recommendation of the North American Numbering Council for reducing the time interval for porting between wireline and wireless carriers. The Notice also seeks comment on alternative mechanisms for reducing the intermodal porting interval, as well as whether certain classes of carriers, including small and rural carriers, should be exempt if a shorter intermodal porting interval is adopted. Finally, the Notice seeks comment on implementation issues related to shortening the intermodal porting interval. I look forward to hearing from all interested parties regarding how best to reduce the intermodal porting interval, so that consumers can more easily switch to their carrier of choice.

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