

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

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

I am happy that with this item we are seeking comment on ways to shorten the interval for intermodal porting. This Commission is strongly on record that number portability reduces both the hassle and expense that previously accompanied switching between service providers and technologies. That's good news for consumers, for businesses—for anyone who pays a phone bill.

While I am greatly encouraged at the prospect of being able to cut porting time very significantly, I want to understand fully the challenges and costs and burdens that might arguably be involved. And I want to look very closely at the impact on smaller and rural carriers. Surely we need to address open matters involving the rating and routing of wireline calls to numbers ported to wireless carriers. We depend on good input and information here, because the decisions coming out of the Commission depend on what comes in to us.

The fact that we can initiate this action today is due to the good work of the North American Numbering Council. Like so many of our advisory councils, NANC labors behind the scenes and sorts through complex details to develop its recommendations. Their input and counsel is vital to our process. So thanks to them. We demonstrate our gratitude best when we quickly seek comment on their efforts. We do so here, and I am pleased to support this item.