

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

Re: Amendment of Parts 73 and 74 of the Commission's Rules to Establish Rules for Digital Low Power Television, Television Translators, and Television Booster Stations and to Amend Rules for Digital Class A Television Stations

A hallmark of the Commission's digital migration agenda has been ushering in the era of digital television and its many benefits for our citizens. In so doing, we have sought to bring the DTV transition to a successful conclusion so that we can reclaim spectrum for vital public safety and new, broadband wireless services. At the same time, one of the central goals of the entirety of the Commission's agenda is to bring universal availability of new, digital services to each and every American.

Today, we take a substantial step on all of these fronts as we set a course for translator services and low-power broadcasters to bring the benefits of the DTV transition to all corners of our country, including the most rural areas of the United States. By allowing these broadcasters—many of whom are public, municipally owned, minority or religious stations—to engage in a mini-digital broadcast television transition of their own, we signal our desire to prevent disruption of broadcast service to our nation's citizens during the DTV transition, while bringing them the benefits of the digital television enjoyed in the vast majority of markets today.

As we provide these broadcasters with the capability to receive a second channel so that they can fully participate in the DTV transition, it should be clear that use of this second channel will be short-lived. To my mind, bringing an end to this transition at the same time as the end of the full-power DTV broadcast transition is of utmost importance.

Through these steps and by embracing a hard date for both this and the end of the full-power DTV transition, we can bring our citizens the benefits of digital television, bring more "saving lives" spectrum to the public safety community and drive the development of innovative wireless broadband services to all Americans.

Our commitment to moving along the DTV transition has been unwavering as we begin to take the necessary steps to visualize and then realize the end of the DTV transition and the vast benefits of that end to our citizens and homeland and economic security. At the same time, we remain committed to opening up this spectrum for new wireless services, as demonstrated by our pursuit of the use of broadcast white spaces for new wireless broadband use. On both fronts, we continue to plan to move forward aggressively.