

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

*Re: Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting; Local Competition and Broadband Reporting, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking and Order on Reconsideration*

I am pleased to support this Notice which proposes to improve and extend the Commission's data gathering efforts into the status of broadband deployment and local competition. Congress directed this Commission to ensure that all Americans have reasonable and timely access to advanced telecommunications capability, such as broadband services, and this effort is of critical importance to the health of our economy and our quality of life. As a member of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, I have seen first hand how access to advanced services can benefit our schools and rural health care centers. And, as the first person from South Dakota to serve as a Commissioner at the FCC, I know firsthand how important broadband services are to rural communities.

The Commission's data collection program has provided useful data on broadband and local telephone subscribership for the past four years. Extending this program is extremely important. What I and others have called for is access to more granular data that would give policymakers a better understanding of the types of services and locations of services being deployed. It is critical that we understand with greater nuance whether consumers in rural areas are receiving access to broadband services comparable to those deployed in urban areas and whether those services are available at comparable prices. With respect to urban areas, we should know whether residential consumers have access to broadband services or whether it is only available to larger business users. We should also explore whether information about pricing for broadband services would help us to determine whether access to broadband services is affordable to all Americans. With this Notice, we have the opportunity to explore these questions and to appreciably improve our data collection efforts.

I am disappointed, however, that any additional data that we collect through this program will not be available in time for our current Section 706 inquiry and the report on broadband deployment that we must issue this fall. With this timing, we miss a golden opportunity to contribute to the public dialogue over how best to speed broadband deployment. In the absence of a more granular data collection, I hope that parties and this Commission will cast our nets broadly as we investigate where companies have deployed broadband and the choices available to consumers. Having a comprehensive, reliable, and accurate understanding about the state of broadband deployment is a critical step in our efforts to promote the availability of broadband services to all Americans.