

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL J. COPPS
Approving in part, dissenting in Part**

RE: Biennial Regulatory Review – Amendment of Parts 1, 22, 24, 27, and 90 to Streamline and Harmonize Various Rules Affecting Wireless Radio Services.

I support the vast majority of today's Order and NPRM. But I must dissent from one important part of this item. Today the FCC alters the sliding-scale relationship between tower height and permissible power. This change increases the permissible height of full-power communications towers in suburban areas of our Country for the 800 MHz and 900 MHz bands. We should have analyzed the environmental impact of this change before taking final action.

Towers in many of our communities are already enormous. But because of this FCC Order we may well see more full-power 1,000 foot towers in suburban areas. A 1,000 foot tower is twice as high as the Washington Monument. While we all would like to find ways to improve wireless quality, we should study the impact on our communities before making a change that could dot the suburban landscape with more potentially intrusive structures. We therefore should have studied how many more high towers are likely to be constructed because of our actions and how these towers will affect the environment, aviation safety, and other issues important to communities around the Nation. We did not do so.

The assertion that we can review these issues when individual towers are erected does not allay my concern. The FCC itself does not usually investigate when towers are built, and our history on these matters suggests that ad hoc reviews will inadequately protect our communities. The assertion that high towers already exist in many communities also does not solve this problem. That is because this change potentially will allow companies to build more of these towers without the FCC even asking what the impact of these towers will be. Because I believe that we should at a minimum examine whether our action will negatively impact the environment, safety, and other community concerns, I must dissent to this part of the Order.