

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KATHLEEN Q. ABERNATHY**

***In the Matter of Applications of Nextel Communications, Inc. and Sprint Corporation for
Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses and Authorizations, WT Docket No. 05-63.***

Today, we inject a healthy and strengthened dose of intermodal competition into an already competitive U.S. communications market. By approving this transaction, we allow the creation of the nation's largest independent wireless carrier; one that will be a stronger and more robust competitor to wireline and other nationwide wireless carriers. While I have agreed to support the conditions mutually agreed upon between the Applicants and some of my colleagues, I am pleased that we do not impose extensive and unnecessary conditions on our approval. It would be a mistake to hamstring the merged entity's ability to provide the anticipated pro-competitive services to U.S. consumers.