

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER
MICHAEL J. COPPS**

RE: Modifying the Commission's Process to Avert Harm to U.S. Competition and U.S. Customers Caused by Anticompetitive Conduct (NOI).

Circuit disruptions are an unacceptable tactic in negotiations over settlement rate increases. They harm consumers, discourage competition and undermine international cooperation. It is cause for serious concern that the number of circuit disruption cases appears to be on the rise. So it is both necessary and proper that we initiate this NOI to explore ways for better protecting U.S. consumers when circuit disruptions, or the threat thereof, occur. The International Bureau serves the public interest and encourages more acceptable international practices with the Notice, and I commend IB for its good and fast work on this item and look forward to determining quickly what further action is necessary.