

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: Annual Assessment of the Status of Competition in the Market for the Delivery of Video Programming

This NOI launches a report that serves as the factual foundation for numerous Commission decisions and also provides Congress with information it requires to inform the national policy debate. That's why it is incumbent upon the Commission to put our best foot forward here, to gather complete and accurate data, and then to commit the resources needed to analyze the data.

I am pleased that this year's Notice builds on the discussions from previous Reports. With the information sought by this Notice, we have the potential to increase our understanding of the market and the consequences for consumers at a time when we are seeing not only new services, technological advances and expanding competition, but also continuing rate increases. I also hope this year's Report will expand the discussion begun last year of, among other things, issues specific to video program distribution in rural America and an examination of foreign markets. With video programming, just as with broadband, we may gain insights and learn a lesson or two from what other countries are doing.

As in past years, the Commission states that it intends to rely on publicly available data, filings in various Commission proceedings, and information submitted by commenters in response to this Notice of Inquiry. However, if these sources do not provide sufficient information for us to meet our statutory obligations, the Commission may need to undertake a more proactive effort to obtain independent, verified data. Such an effort may be necessary to satisfy Congress' directive and fulfill our mission as the government's expert agency on these issues. Nevertheless, my hope is that this Notice will elicit informed and comprehensive responses that will allow us to complete our job. I thank the Bureau for its work and for the improvements to this item and I look forward to working with my colleagues to fashion the next Report.