

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

*Re: Reexamination of Roaming Obligations of Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers;
WT Docket No. 05-265*

Consumers are using wireless phones more than ever. As we travel around town or around the country, we increasingly rely on wireless phones to stay connected with family, friends and colleagues. Sometimes we are assessed roaming charges to do so. Today we begin to explore the impact roaming charges have on the prices and services that we consumers get—and whether more rules are needed for roaming. We have expressly asked questions about the effects of roaming on consumers and the prices we pay; the practices that carriers use to inform us when we are roaming; the particular roaming experiences of rural consumers and carriers; and the treatment of data services as well as voice in the roaming context. I am grateful to my colleagues for their work in improving this item, and look forward to a full record on these issues. As we examine our regulatory approach to roaming, we should stay focused on the interests of consumers, especially those living in rural America.