

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: Clarification of Procedures for Participation of Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations Under the Nationwide Programmatic Agreement

I support today's decision first and foremost because it maintains the basic procedures adopted in Nationwide Programmatic Agreement and continues the vitally important government-to-government relationship that guides FCC interactions with federally-recognized Indian Tribes and Native Hawaiian Organizations (NHOs). I also support issuing a clarification of our processes now that we have some experience with implementation of the Agreement. It is not a perfect solution or as rigorous as I would have preferred, but I am optimistic that the clarification we adopt today will enable the timely deployment of communications infrastructure while, at the same time, allowing us to protect our valuable historic places. Nevertheless, the Commission must continue to work hard to implement the Agreement and should periodically reexamine our processes to ensure that we do not undermine the ability of Indian Tribes and NHOs to protect places that are culturally or religiously important.