

**CONCURRING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: Administration of the North American Numbering Plan, Order, CC Docket No. 99-200, FCC 05-20

Congress charged the Commission with the responsibility to make numbering resources available “on an equitable basis.” Because numbers are a scarce public good, it is imperative that the Commission develop policies that ensure their efficient and fair distribution. I support today’s decision because it is conditioned on SBC Internet Services complying with the Commission’s numbering utilization and optimization requirements, numbering authority delegated to the states and industry guidelines and practices, including filing the Numbering Resource and Utilization Forecast Report. In addition, SBC Internet Services is required to file any requests for numbers with the Commission and relevant state commission in advance of requesting them from the North American Numbering Plan Administrator and/or Pooling Administrator.

I limit my support to concurring, however, because I think the approach the Commission takes here is less than optimal. Undoubtedly, SBC Internet Services is not the only provider of IP services interested in direct access to numbering resources. But our approach today neglects the need for broader reform that could accommodate other IP service providers. It puts this off for another day, preferring instead to address what may soon be a stream of wavier petitions on this subject.

While I am encouraged that the offices have agreed to refer these broader issues to the experts on the North American Numbering Council, I am disappointed that this did not occur well before today’s item. Like so many other areas involving IP technology, this Commission is moving bit by bit through petitions without a comprehensive focus that will offer clarity for consumers, carriers and investors alike.

Finally, I think it is important to acknowledge that numbering conservation is not an issue that the federal government can undertake by itself. States have an integral role to play. This is why Congress specifically provided the Commission with authority to delegate jurisdiction over numbering administration to our state counterparts. Consumers everywhere are growing frustrated with the proliferation of new numbers and area codes. As IP services grow and multiply, state and federal authorities will have to redouble our efforts to work together. After all, we share the same goals—ensuring that consumers get the new services they desire and ensuring that numbering resources are distributed in the most efficient and equitable manner possible.