

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

Re: AT&T Inc., Compliance with the Commission's Rules and Regulations Governing Customer Proprietary Network Information, File Nos. EB-05-TC-047, EB-06-TC-059, Order.

A consumer's telephone call records include some of the most private personal information about an individual. Access to telephone records can show who people are calling and for how long. For all practical purposes, it is like picking someone's brain about their friends, plans or business dealings. People are extremely guarded about their privacy, and Congress recognized the sensitivity of this information in the Telecommunications Act of 1996 when it prohibited phone companies from using or disclosing CPNI without the customer's approval. It charged the Commission with enforcing this privacy protection and the Commission previously adopted a set of rules designed to ensure that telephone companies have effective safeguards in place.

In this case, AT&T has commendably self-reported some of its failures in its compliance mechanisms and has agreed to adopt a compliance plan so that consumers are appropriately notified about the Commission's privacy rules. I support this Order because consistent enforcement is essential to promote compliance with our consumer privacy rules. It is also important for the Commission to move ahead with our pending rulemaking on our consumer privacy rules for telephone companies. When we opened that proceeding earlier this year, it was apparent that telephone records were widely available on the Internet, even though telephone companies are required to have firewalls in place to protect consumers' private information. That proceeding, adopted at the urging of a watchful public interest group, the Electronic Privacy Information Center, provides us an important opportunity to find ways to tighten our rules and provide greater security for these sensitive consumer records. We must not lose sight of that opportunity to ensure that we have sufficiently strong consumer privacy rules in place and that phone companies are employing effective safeguards to shield this data from harm. Every provider should be on notice that this is at the top of our agenda, we are watching closely and will take the action necessary to protect consumers' privacy, and we expect them to do the same.