

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: Amendment of Part 15 Regarding New Requirements and Measurement Guidelines for Access Broadband over Power Line Systems, Carrier Current Systems including Broadband over Power Line Systems, *Memorandum Opinion and Order*

About three years ago, I first had the opportunity to hear about the potential for a new technology – called Broadband-over-Power-Lines (BPL) – being tested in a small rural area in Tennessee. Over the past few months, I have witnessed BPL in action in Texas and Maryland. Each time, I am struck by the impact this technology could have on reaching our goal of ubiquitous broadband deployment in the United States. It's an exciting prospect, and I am pleased to support this *Memorandum Opinion and Order* today in support of this technology.

In 2005, 24% of rural Americans had broadband access at home, more than double the 9% reported in 2003, according to the Pew Internet and American Life Project. BPL technology could increase that number in no time at all if and when it is able to be deployed on a nationwide basis. When you consider the effect this could have on Americans in terms of everything from entertainment to education to health to job productivity and just about every other aspect of American life, you truly begin to realize how important BPL might be. I hope that the FCC can continue to be a part of the effort to make this technology available to more and more Americans.

BPL is another regulatory question requiring us to balance regulatory humility with our oversight responsibilities. The FCC has and will continue to struggle with finding an appropriate balance between regulation to mitigate potential negative “side effects” that accompany BPL and a hands off approach that gives BPL the room it needs to develop in a free market. I believe that today's *Opinion and Order* strikes the right balance with minimal regulatory burdens. I also hope we will continue to be cognizant of the impact our regulations have on the industry, and I welcome a continuing dialogue regarding some of the potential concerns noted in the record.