

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Former Nextel Communications, Inc. Upper 700 MHz Guard Band Licenses and Revisions to Part 27 of the Commission's Rules, Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Communications Requirements Through the Year 2010 (Notice of Proposed Rule Making, WT Docket Nos. 06-169, 96-86)

We seek comment in this item on potential changes to our rules governing the 700 MHz guard bands, including proposals that would alter the upper 700 MHz band plan. These proposals promise to increase the amount of spectrum available for public safety and facilitate more efficient use of both public safety and commercial spectrum in the band. I am pleased that we are seizing this opportunity to simultaneously consider allowing more flexible operations for existing services while ensuring that public safety users have access to adequate spectrum. As we move forward in this proceeding, however, we must not overlook the digital television transition and our statutory mandate to soon commence an auction of 700 MHz spectrum. I am hopeful that these challenges can be addressed expeditiously and this spectrum put to use as efficiently and effectively as possible.