

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: Implementation of Section 6002(b) of the Omnibus Budget Reconciliation Act of 1993; Annual Report and Analysis of Competitive Market Conditions With Respect to Commercial Mobile Services, Eleventh Report

Congress requires the Commission to report annually on the state of competition in Commercial Mobile Radio Services (CMRS), and I believe that today's report shows a healthy and competitive wireless industry. Wireless technology has become a vital part of the world economy. According to CTIA, in the first six months of 2006 alone, more than \$10 billion dollars was invested in the wireless industry. U.S. consumers have adopted wireless technologies at a breathtaking pace. As today's report indicates, as of December 2005, there were approximately 213 million mobile telephone subscribers, which translates into a nationwide penetration rate of approximately 71 percent.

Wireless telephones are becoming even more versatile. For instance, several companies have recently partnered with cellular carriers to provide news, sports, and entertainment television clips to your cell phone. Others have announced special phone services for kids so that parents can track their child's location. Consumers continue to increase their use of mobile telephones for voice and data services. The average amount of time U.S. mobile subscribers spend talking on their mobile phones rose to 740 minutes per month in the second half of 2005, an increase of more than 120 minutes from a year earlier.

I also am particularly pleased that this report highlights the growth of broadband data services provided by wireless providers. With the recently auctioned advanced wireless spectrum, I know that this trend will only compound. I am also intrigued by the developments in creating mesh broadband networks using unlicensed portions of the spectrum. It is important to see that wireless broadband continues to develop in order to present an additional viable option to consumers, not only in core "lead" markets, but across the entire nation.

Finally, I would like to provide some feedback to the wireless industry. My colleagues and I are keenly aware of how important communications technologies are when public safety or homeland security concerns become paramount. I commend the wireless industry for the role it has played regarding public safety and encourage CMRS carriers' to continue to work with federal and state entities on these critical matters. Moreover, I am pleased that wireless informal complaints have decreased from 4,616 in the first quarter of 2006 to 4,050 in the second quarter of 2006, but encourage that more consumer friendly policies be examined. As an FCC Commissioner, I encourage the wireless industry to continue to innovate and create the next great new product. In particular, I hope the industry continues to play a role in the deployment of broadband to more consumers. Wireless providers will be critical to getting broadband out to that last, most difficult mile.