

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

Re: *Applications for the Assignment of License from Denali PCS, L.L.C. to Alaska DigiTel, L.L.C. and the Transfer of Control of Interests in Alaska DigiTel, L.L.C. to General Communications, Inc., WT Docket No. 06-114, Memorandum Opinion and Order*

We have an obligation in transactions coming before the Commission to weigh their proposed benefits against their potential harms to ensure that the transaction is in the public interest. For me, this particular transaction was a close call. There are benefits to this proposed transaction, specifically in making Alaska DigiTel a stronger competitor. In this regard, I also recognize and appreciate GCI's agreement to remove any veto rights over Alaska DigiTel's budget. At the same time, as the order points out, there is a real potential for post-transaction coordinated interaction among the applicants and through contracts with third parties. The Bureau should be commended for pointing out this concern and in crafting proposed conditions designed to remedy this potential harm. Ultimately, I would have preferred to have had stronger firewalls in place to help ensure that competitively sensitive information does not find its way into improper hands. As a result, I will concur in today's decision. Nevertheless, the Commission should keep a careful eye on future developments in the market and act swiftly in response to any evidence of anti-competitive or anti-consumer tactics. The good people of Alaska deserve no less.