

**JOINT STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN
AND
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: Amendment of Parts 1, 21, 73, 74 and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Use of the Universal Licensing System in the 2500-2690 MHz Band; Part 1 of the Commission's Rules – Further Competitive Bidding Procedures; Amendment of Parts 21 and 74 to Enable Multipoint Distribution Service and the Instructional Television Fixed Service Amendment of Parts 21 and 74 to Engage in Fixed Two-Way Transmissions; Amendment of Parts 21 and 74 of the Commission's Rules With Regard to Licensing in the Multipoint Distribution Service and in the Instructional Television Fixed Service for the Gulf of Mexico; Promoting Efficient Use of Spectrum Through Elimination of Barriers to the Development of Secondary Markets; Review of the Spectrum Sharing Plan Among Non-Geostationary Satellite Orbit Mobile Satellite Service Systems in the 1.6/2.4 GHz Bands; Amendment of Part 2 of the Commission's Rules to Allocate Spectrum Below 3 GHz for Mobile and Fixed Services to Support the Introduction of New Advanced Wireless Services, Including Third Generation Wireless Systems, *Order on Reconsideration and Fifth Memorandum Opinion and Order, and Third Memorandum Opinion and Order and Second Report and Order*, (WT Docket No. 03-66, IB Docket No. 02-364, ET Docket No. 00-258), FCC 06-46

In 2004, the Commission initiated a fundamental restructuring of the 2500-2690 MHz band to give educational and commercial licensees contiguous spectrum in the low power segments of the band, while preserving the high power segment for video uses, such as long-distance learning.

Today, we affirm the allocation decisions adopted in the original order, including the reservation of spectrum for educational users. In addition, we take steps today to ease the transition for relocating licensees to the restructured band plan, including reducing the size of transition areas from Major Economic Areas to smaller Basic Trading Areas. We also modify the leasing requirements of Educational Broadcast Service licensees to balance their need to reserve the right to periodically re-evaluate their educational needs with the needs of commercial operators for the certainty of longer-term leasing arrangements. Encouraging education and promoting the deployment of commercial broadband services are both important goals of the Commission, and we believe the leasing provisions the Commission adopts today will support them both. We are also optimistic that this item will help enable this spectrum band to fulfill its potential as a home for innovative broadband and educational services.