

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Recommendations of the Independent Panel Reviewing the Impact of Hurricane Katrina on Communications Networks, EB Docket No. 06-119

I would like to thank the members of the Independent Panel for taking the time to study the impact of Hurricane Katrina on communications networks. I would also like to thank Nancy Victory for agreeing to Chair the Independent Panel. We all appreciate the hard work that went into studying the lessons of this terrible disaster and developing recommendations for improving our response in the future.

The devastation of Hurricane Katrina highlighted the importance of telecommunications and media to our daily lives, and our dependency on our national communications infrastructure. For the past six months, experts from public safety organizations, the communications industry, and public interest groups have worked together to study the impact of Hurricane Katrina on the telecommunications and media infrastructure and to review the sufficiency of the recovery effort with respect to this infrastructure.

In its final report, the Independent Panel has presented recommendations for increasing the readiness of the communications industry, improving response and recovery after major disasters, enhancing the operability and interoperability of public safety and 911 communications, and strengthening our emergency alert communications. I am particularly pleased to see the Independent Panel's recommendations to provide a Readiness Checklist for the communications industry, to inform the public safety community about technologies to improve the operability and interoperability of their communications, to strengthen the resiliency of Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs) and other 911 infrastructure, and to take actions to ensure the public gets timely information in times of emergency.

With this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we are asking for comments and suggestions from the public on how to best address and implement the Independent Panel's recommendations. I look forward to studying the Independent Panel's report and to reviewing the public's responses for additional follow-up action so that we can improve our response and recovery efforts for the future.