STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE

Re: IP-Enabled Services; Implementation of Sections 255 and 251(a)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Enacted by the Telecommunications Act of 1996: Access to Telecommunications Service, Telecommunications Equipment and Customer Premises Equipment by Persons with Disabilities; The Use of N11 Codes and Other Abbreviated Dialing Arrangements, WC Docket No. 04-36, WT Docket No. 96-198, CG Docket No. 03-123, CC Docket No. 92-105.

Congress intended for *all* Americans to benefit from advances in telecommunications services and equipment, and this item does just that, both by stabilizing the funding base for TRS services and by extending accessibility requirements to the interconnected VoIP services which millions of Americans are now substituting for traditional voice service. Given the rapid marketplace adoption of interconnected VoIP, I am pleased that we are making these obligations clear at an early stage so that we avoid unnecessary market distortion. While I continue to advocate a light regulatory touch for developing services like interconnected VoIP, it is essential that important goals like universal access by all our citizens are implemented in an equitable and non-discriminatory manner across platforms and service-providers.