

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Reexamination of Roaming Obligations of Commercial Mobile Radio Service Providers, WT Docket No. 05-26, Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 07-143

Consumers increasingly expect that their mobile phones will function where they work, where they play, and where they travel. Automatic roaming fulfills these expectations in a manner that is seamless and transparent to the consumer. Today's Report and Order will help ensure that all consumers including those living in rural areas receive this benefit.

The order adopted today, however, also recognizes that a reasonable roaming request does not include a request for roaming in areas where a provider already has access to spectrum. In this respect the Report and Order continues to support the overarching goal of encouraging facilities-based competition in the wireless market. It also does not impose a price cap or any other form of rate regulation.

While the Report and Order adopted today does not impose automatic roaming obligations on carriers' broadband data services, the Further Notice adopted today seeks additional comment on automatic roaming for broadband data. I am sympathetic to some of the concerns raised regarding access to data roaming. Some companies, however, have also suggested that part of their business model for the 700 MHz band includes wholesaling capacity to provide broadband roaming to other carriers as a kind of anchor service. I am concerned that extending the roaming obligation to broadband data services at this time could undermine the wholesale model that some have advocated.

I look forward to the further development of the record on these issues, and to working with my colleagues to address the questions raised.