

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

***Amendment of Part 101 of the Commission's Rules to Modify Antenna Requirements for the 10.7 – 11.7 GHz Band; Nextlink Wireless, Inc.; First Avenue Networks, Inc.; Telecom Transport Management, Inc.; Conterra Ultra Broadband, LLC; WT Docket No. 07-54, RM-11043.***

I am pleased that the Commission has moved quickly to approve the use of two-foot antennas in the 11 GHz Band. Our prompt action will enable the companies seeking relief, as well as others interested in entering the marketplace, to begin offering microwave backhaul service in the 11 GHz Band in areas where two-foot antennas are the most effective means of meeting customer needs. Furthermore, we have enabled these new entrants to compete with each other, as well as with landline backhaul providers, on an equal footing; thus increasing competition and lowering costs throughout the entire backhaul market. This is especially important as the consumer acceptance of 3G and 4G high speed data services increases the need for backhaul.

I thank the Chairman for expeditiously bringing this order forward, as well as the staff of the Wireless Bureau for their thoughtful and comprehensive analysis.