

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 2155-2175 MHz Band,*
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

Today's NPRM seeks comment on a variety of options for how the Commission can license the AWS-3 spectrum band to best serve the public interest. These options include: (1) opening this spectrum to unlicensed use, as has proved so productive in other bands; (2) designating it for an open access model that would combine wholesale broadband access and a *Carterfone* mandate; (3) using it to provide free, advertiser-supported broadband service (as initially proposed by M2Z and then by NetfreeUS) as well as a fee-based premium broadband service; or (4) allocating it through a traditional, largely unconditioned auction.

I believe a general rulemaking—in which interested parties from industry and the public interest community, as well as members of the public, are free to comment—is plainly the right way for the Commission to decide among these various models. I am especially pleased that my colleagues have agreed to commit to issuing service rules for the AWS-3 band within 9 months from the date this item is published in the Federal Register. The one outcome that would plainly *not* serve the public interest is for this spectrum to remain unavailable for advanced wireless services.