STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN

Re: Petition of the Embarq Local Operating Companies for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Application of Computer Inquiry and Certain Title II Common-Carriage Requirements; Petition of the Frontier and Citizens ILECs for Forbearance Under Section 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) from Title II and Computer Inquiry Rules with Respect to Their Broadband Services, WC Docket No. 06-147

Broadband access is essential to an expanding Internet-based information economy. Promoting broadband deployment is one of the highest priorities of the FCC. To accomplish this goal, the Commission seeks to establish a policy environment that facilitates and encourages broadband investment, allowing market forces to deliver the benefits of broadband to consumers. Today, we take another step in establishing a regulatory environment that encourages such investments and innovation by granting Embarq's and Citizens and Frontier's petitions for regulatory relief of their broadband infrastructure and fiber capabilities. This relief will enable Embarq, Citizens and Frontier to have the flexibility to further deploy their broadband services and fiber facilities without overly burdensome regulations.

The relief afforded to Embarq, Citizens and Frontier is consistent with and similar to the relief provided in Commission decisions regarding broadband services, packet switching, and fiber facilities. In those decisions, the Commission determined to relax regulations where competition was significant and where regulations acted as a disincentive to deploy new broadband technologies. Accordingly, based on the specific market facts that have been placed before us, we are compelled under the "pro-competitive, deregulatory" framework established by Congress, as well as under section 10's forbearance criteria, to grant Embarq, Citizens and Frontier relief from the continued application of legacy regulations.