

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS
APPROVING IN PART, DISSENTING IN PART**

Re: Applications of ALLTEL Corporation, Transferor, and Atlantis Holdings LLC, Transferee for Consent to Transfer Control of Licenses, Leases and Authorizations, WT Docket No. 07-128.

I vote to approve today's transfer of control. While I cannot be pleased at the current levels of concentration in the wireless industry, I do not see that this transaction makes the situation any worse. I do, however, renew my plea (from my statement on the Univision transaction in March of this year) that the agency conduct a general rulemaking to assess the public interest consequences of private equity firms holding Commission licenses.

I dissent, however, to the portion of the order that imposes a cap on the high-cost universal service support the company receives as a competitive eligible telecommunications carrier (CETC). As I explained in my dissent to the Joint Board's recommendation (in May of this year) for a general CETC cap, piecemeal Universal Service Fund (USF) reform is actually counter-productive to the far more important goal of rationally implementing comprehensive reform. The condition being imposed in today's merger is even more piecemeal than what the Joint Board recommended in May—I fear that the condition will be an even greater hindrance to rational, comprehensive USF reform. Additionally, it is disappointing to me that the Commission imposes this condition when the Joint Board currently is working hard to provide the Commission a recommendation on broader reform.