

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

*Re: Petitions of the Verizon Telephone Companies for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) in the Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Providence and Virginia Beach Metropolitan Statistical Areas, WC Docket No. 06-172*

The Commission adopted an Order denying forbearance petitions by Verizon for relief from network sharing and other obligations in six cities. Verizon requested relief similar to the relief the Commission granted to Qwest in Omaha. Although significant competition exists in Verizon's markets, particularly in Providence and Virginia Beach, the Commission determined based on the specific market facts before us that Verizon's petitions do not warrant regulatory relief like that afforded to Qwest in Omaha. As competition in these markets continues to develop, I am happy to reevaluate these markets based on updated market facts.