

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Third Periodic Review of the Commission's Rules and Policies Affecting the Conversion to Digital Television (MB Docket No. 07-91)

Today we take another step in our effort to facilitate a timely digital transition. With this Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, we begin our third periodic review to assess the progress of broadcast television stations as they transition from analog to digital systems. We also ask broadcasters to update us on their progress toward completion of their own digital transition and how they plan to meet the statutory deadline for that transition. The Commission will make any necessary adjustments to the Commission's technical rules and policies to facilitate the transmission of digital broadcast signals by February 17, 2009. It is by taking concrete steps to advance this transition that we can ensure that the broadcast spectrum is made available as soon as possible for critically important public safety needs and broadband wireless uses.

I am hopeful that the proceeding we initiate today will assist in making the digital transition proceed as swiftly and smoothly as possible.