

**STATEMENT OF**  
**COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

RE: The Establishment of Policies and Service Rules for the Broadcasting-Satellite Service at the 17.3-17.7 GHz Frequency Band and at the 17.7-17.8 GHz Frequency Band Internationally, and at the 24.75-25.25 GHz Frequency Band for Fixed Satellite Services Providing Feeder Links to the Broadcasting-Satellite Service and for the Satellite Services Operating Bi-directionally in the 17.3-17.8 GHz Frequency Band, IB Docket No. 06-123, *Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*, FCC 07-76

Today, the Commission takes a constructive step forward to open a new window of opportunity for more competition in the satellite industry. The services offered in the 17/24 GHz band will include standard-definition and high-definition formats, and will provide a mix of advanced, multi-media services to residential and business subscribers located not only in the continental United States, but in Alaska and Hawaii as well. I am particularly pleased that our new rules require operators to construct each satellite to accommodate the provision of service to Alaska and Hawaii in the event the satellite reaches, or is moved to, an orbital location that would provide this coverage.

In addition, our order adopts a four-degree orbital spacing plan and associated technical rules to implement the plan, while also permitting flexibility to the extent that proposed offset locations do not increase the potential for interference to other systems. We also adopt technical rules to protect receive-only consumer antennas, which would shield incumbents and their customers from harmful interference, while creating a means for roll-out of new, innovative products and facilities. Finally, we are proceeding mindful of the need to protect the operations of terrestrial systems that have co-primary rights in certain of the bands at issue here.

Because we implement a light regulatory touch, our action will ease the ability of diverse entrants to introduce exciting new services to American consumers living in urban, rural and insular areas. This is precisely the type of action the Commission must continuously take to provide the certainty necessary for America's entrepreneurs to forge ahead with advanced broadband offerings. Our work will result in more choices for consumers and more competition among different broadband platforms. This should, in turn, result in lower prices for consumers and a corresponding increase in delivery to consumers living and working in *all* areas of our country.

Finally, I thank the International Bureau for its comprehensive, thoughtful work.