

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: *Rules and Regulations Implementing the Telephone Consumer Protection Act of 1991*, CG Docket No. 02-278.

Today's action concludes that telephone numbers registered in the National Do-Not-Call Registry will not expire after 5 years. Consumers expect their telephone numbers to remain protected under the Registry until they have cancelled their registration or their telephone number is disconnected and reassigned. The Order we adopt ensures that consumers registered with the National Do-Not-Call Registry maintain the privacy they expect and deserve.

At the direction of Congress, the National Do-Not-Call Registry was adopted to make it easier and more efficient for consumers to prevent unwanted telemarketing calls. Since the opening of the Registry was announced in June of 2003, over 157 million telephone numbers have been placed on the Registry. These registrations would have begun to expire later this month leaving millions of consumers without protection from unwanted telemarketing calls.

Earlier this year, Congress prohibited the automatic removal of telephone numbers from the National Do-Not-Call Registry. Consistent with this direction, we require telemarketers to honor registrations with the Registry until consumers have cancelled their registration or their telephone number is disconnected and reassigned. This will minimize confusion for those consumers that have chosen to avoid unwanted telemarketing calls and avoid the inconvenience of having to re-register every five years.