

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Petitions of Qwest for Forbearance Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) in the Denver, Minneapolis-St. Paul, Phoenix, and Seattle Metropolitan Statistical Areas, WC Docket No. 07-97

The Commission adopted an Order denying forbearance petitions by Qwest for relief from network sharing and other obligations in four Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSAs). Qwest requested relief similar to the relief the Commission granted the company in Omaha. Although significant competition exists in Qwest's markets, particularly in Phoenix, the Commission determined based on the specific market facts provided to us that Qwest's petitions did not provide sufficient evidence to conclude that regulatory relief like that afforded the company in Omaha was warranted. As competition in these markets continues to develop, I am happy to reevaluate these markets based on updated market facts.