

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

*Re: Carriage of Digital Television Broadcast Signals: Amendment to Part 76 of the Commission's Rules, CS Docket 98-120*

In the cable carriage order adopted last September, I expressed my disappointment that we did not resolve these small system issues at the time. Again, when we deferred the HD carriage requirements for DBS operators last March, I expressed the hope that we would turn quickly to the carriage issues raised by small cable operators. While this Order has taken far longer than I would have preferred, I am pleased that we have finally acted to provide some relief for small cable systems. At the same time, I am pleased that the Commission will re-examine these exemptions by February 17, 2012 to ensure that we maintain the appropriate balance as the digital marketplace continues to evolve.