

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

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

After nearly one year since this Commission clarified the obligations of major cable systems after the digital TV transition, we are finally clarifying the obligations of small, capacity-constrained cable systems. Last year, it was eminently clear that the waiver process we adopted for small cable systems in the *Third Report and Order* would not have been adequate. I am pleased that the Commission has realized its previous miscalculation, from which I dissented, and is correcting it today.

While we are granting small cable systems an exemption to our material degradation requirement, it is important to point out that no viewer will be disfranchised. In today's *Order*, we ensure that all cable subscribers will continue to receive a viewable signal of all their broadcast channels. However, as we did for the satellite television industry, we have considered the technical and resource limitations of small cable systems and, accordingly, have provided limited, temporary relief.

I am also pleased that we clarify in this *Order* that major cable operators are not required to carry a standard definition digital version *and* an analog version because there is "no perceivable difference between the two versions."

For these reasons, I support this *Order*.