

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Emmetsburg, Sanborn and Sibley, Iowa, and Brandon, South Dakota, MM Docket No. 01-65, et al.; Applications of Kidd Communications for a Construction Permit for a New AM Station at Truckee, California, Pamplin Broadcasting-Oregon, Inc. for a Construction Permit for a New AM Station at Jacksonville, Oregon, File Nos. BNP-20000201AFK and 20000131ABP; Royce International Broadcasting Co., Application for a New AM Broadcast Station at Folsom, California, File No. BP-19970829AA, et al.

I have discussed previously the need to revisit our radio allotment priorities in order to ensure that we are meeting our statutory obligation to provide “a fair, efficient, and equitable distribution of radio licenses.”¹ Section 307(b) means that rural as well as urban communities are entitled to a fair distribution of service. I am concerned, however, that our existing allotment rules may unduly favor urban applicants by awarding, for instance, a dispositive preference to proposals that serve the greater number of people—even if that number is relatively small. The end result is that rural applicants often never even get the chance to bid at auction because the urban applicants are awarded a dispositive preference, typically under the catch-all priority for “other public interest matters.”

I am pleased that my colleagues have agreed to examine our radio allotment and assignment criteria as part of the recently released Rural Radio Service Notice of Proposed Rulemaking.² In the meantime, these cases adhere to current precedent and I therefore accept the results.

¹See 47 U.S.C. § 307(b); See also *Concurring Statement of Commissioner Michael J. Copps, In re Applications of Jeffrey B. Bate for a New AM Broadcast Station at Mesquite, Nevada and Jeffrey Eustis for a New AM Broadcast Station at Johnstown, Colorado, and In re Applications of Jeffrey B. Bate for a New AM Broadcast Station at St. George, Utah and Andrew Johnson for a New AM Broadcast Station at Winchester, Nevada.*

² *Policies to Promote Rural Radio Service and Streamline Allotment and Assignment Procedures*, Notice of Proposed Rule Making, FCC 09-30, (rel. Apr. 20, 2009).