

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: *Globalstar Licensee LLC Applications for Modification of License for Operation of Ancillary Terrestrial Component Facilities, Order and Authorization*

This item provides a Mobile Satellite Service (MSS) licensee a temporary waiver of certain Commission rules related to ancillary terrestrial component (ATC) operations. In so doing, we allow the licensee, Globalstar, in partnership with its lessee, Open Range Communications, to proceed with a \$267 million loan commitment by the Department of Agriculture's Rural Development Utilities Program. This loan commitment will support the deployment of broadband service in rural areas. Specifically, Globalstar and Open Range plan to provide broadband service to several small towns in rural America starting next year, rapidly expanding their coverage to include 546 communities by 2013.

I recognize that ancillary terrestrial component service is designed to be – and I believe that it should be – ancillary to the core business of satellite providers, which is the provision of service *via satellites*. I support this waiver because, first, it is temporary in nature and imposes a strict set of conditions for noncompliance, and second, because it offers the potential to promote much-needed broadband service in rural America. With regard to the conditions, the order requires updated handsets and satellites within strict time frames – in effect, requiring the provision of satellite service as intended by Commission rules. It also is important to note that the Rural Development Utilities Program has provided a loan commitment, not a subsidy, which means Globalstar and Open Range must repay their debts. Most importantly, this conditioned and time-limited waiver helps the Commission advance one of our most crucial and also most challenging public policy goals: the deployment of broadband, especially for rural Americans.