

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: Promotion of Competitive Networks in Local Telecommunications Markets, WT Docket No. 99-217, Report and Order (Mar. 19, 2008)

Late last year the Commission prohibited video service providers from entering into exclusive contracts covering consumers who happen to live in multiple dwelling units (MDUs). At the time, I asked that the Commission conclude its open proceeding examining the permissibility of exclusive contracts for telecommunications services in the telecom equivalent of an MDU – a residential multiple tenant environment (MTE). Putting the nomenclature aside, the basic point is to offer people living in multiple tenant environments some of the same consumer benefits – competition and choices – as single-family homeowners. I’m pleased to support today’s Order as the Commission fulfills its commitment to prohibit telecom carriers from entering into or enforcing exclusivity contracts with owners of MTEs.