

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER DEBORAH TAYLOR TATE**

Re: Promotion of Competitive Networks in Local Telecommunications Markets, First Report and Order and Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, WT Docket No. 99-217, 15 FCC Rcd 22983 (2000); Parties Asked to Refresh Record Regarding Promotion of Competitive Networks in Local Telecommunications Markets, WT Docket No. 99-217, CC Docket No. 96-98, Public Notice, 22 FCC Rcd 5632 (2007).

In the *Video Nonexclusivity Order* issued on November 13, 2007, the Commission banned exclusivity clauses in the video market and, in so doing, also agreed to consider the issues raised in the 2000 *Competitive Networks Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking*.

I am pleased that today we fulfill that commitment by extending to residential buildings the prohibition against exclusivity contracts for telecommunications services (a ban that was already in place for commercial buildings). These market-opening competitive safeguards continue the policies and reasoning that the Commission recently adopted in the video context. I think we all recognize that exclusivity contracts in perpetuity are not in keeping with our pro-competitive market-opening policies and should be banned. In the interest of regulatory parity, it is essential that we seek to apply our rules consistently across all platforms in a timely manner. By taking this action we advance the 1996 Act's goals of enhancing choice for consumers no matter where they live.