

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

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

Today, the Commission helps millions of Americans who live in apartments enjoy the same benefits of telecommunications competition that have been available to businesses since 2001. They too will now have a choice of telecommunications providers and not be hampered by exclusive contracts. Additionally, incumbent telecommunications service providers and new entrants will be on an equal footing when serving residential consumers in MTEs. I am hopeful that this decision will spur more competition among telecommunications providers in all MTEs. As I have said before, as regulators we need to make sure that competition for all services, and across all platforms does not stop, literally at the doorstep of any multi-unit building in America.