

**STATEMENT OF
ACTING CHAIRMAN MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2009*, MD Docket No. 09-65, *Assessment and Collection of Regulatory Fees for Fiscal Year 2008*, MD Docket No. 08-65

This item begins the process of assessing regulatory fees for this fiscal year (FY 2009) pursuant to Section 9 of the Communications Act. Section 9 requires that the Commission collect fees each year to recover the regulatory costs that are associated with its enforcement, policy and rulemaking, user information, and international activities.

I am particularly pleased that the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking includes the new methodology for calculating regulatory fees for submarine cable operators finally adopted by the Commission in March. Implementing this new methodology, however, is only a precursor of our completion of a long overdue, comprehensive review of the Commission's regulatory fee framework, a project that my colleague Jonathan Adelstein and I have been pushing for years and that was finally launched by the Commission last August. As I have said before, it is hard to believe that we are still generally assessing fees based on the communications marketplace as it existed in 1994. To be frank, we are not yet able to say what a modernized fee structure will look like. But I do intend to press the Commission for action on this before we issue next year's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for FY 2010. I look forward to working with my fellow Commissioners and interested stakeholders to update our rules to accurately and equitably reflect today's regulatory practices.