

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

RE: *Applications Filed for the Transfer of Control of Embarq Corporation to CenturyTel, Inc.*, WC
Docket No. 08-238

I am pleased to support this merger and look forward to the consumer benefits that will result from the combination of Embarq and CenturyTel. The merger will benefit consumers in many ways, including creating synergies that will spur network investment and speeding the roll-out of broadband and other advanced services throughout the combined entity's service area.

I am, however, concerned by the nature of some of the conditions that are attached to this merger. I have repeatedly stated, and our precedent requires, that conditions should be narrowly-tailored to remedy only merger-specific harms, not to implement policies that are better addressed in a rulemaking of general applicability.

Finally, as we work to reform FCC processes going forward, I hope that the Commission will endeavor to meet its 180-day "shot clock" for merger reviews more consistently.