

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

RE: *Review of the Emergency Alert System*, EB Docket No. 04-296

I am pleased to support today's decision to extend the deadline for implementing the new Common Alerting Protocol associated with our nation's forthcoming next-generation Emergency Alert System. Our action today provides the necessary flexibility for handling the pragmatic, nuts-and-bolts challenges associated with this substantial undertaking.

I applaud the broad range of parties – at the Commission and from public safety and industry groups – that are closely collaborating on this important project. I also thank the Chairman for his leadership in this area. By extending the deadline, we are providing a clearer path toward smooth and effective compliance.