

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

Re: *Third Report and Analysis of Competitive Market Conditions with Respect to Domestic and International Satellite Communications Services and Report and Analysis of Competitive Market Conditions with Respect to Domestic and International Satellite Communications Services*, IB Docket Nos. 09-16 and 10-99, FCC 11-183.

I sometimes view FCC competition reports with a skeptical eye, as I do with today's report on the competitive market conditions of the domestic and international satellite communications services. What is different here, however, is that I am voting to approve this report. The new analytical approach – a more detailed analysis that includes separate discussions of the fixed satellite services, mobile satellite systems and the satellite digital audio radio industries – is sound. And, I thank Rod Porter and the team in the International Bureau for their thoughtful work in this regard.

Even so, given the current state of these markets, the record is insufficient at this time to support a finding of “effective competition” as required by Congress. On the other hand, as discussed in our recent order reforming part of the Universal Service Fund, the satellite industry is poised to play a key role in the broadband future. I look forward to continuing to develop opportunities to foster competition in this important market sector.