

**CONCURRING STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. MCDOWELL**

Re: *Applications Filed by Qwest Communications International Inc. and CenturyTel, Inc.
d/b/a CenturyLink for Consent To Transfer Control, WC Docket No. 10-110*

Approval of this transaction is in the public interest. Together, the combined companies will be better able to provide advanced services to consumers who live in some of the most remote parts of our country than if they were to remain separate. I am concerned, however, that the Commission is continuing to create a prescriptive merger review process that unnecessarily raises the costs of such beneficial transactions. Regulatory costs are not free and are ultimately paid for by American consumers. If this trend continues, fewer companies may elect to engage in transactions that could accelerate investment and innovation, help grow the economy and create jobs. Accordingly, I respectfully concur.