

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

Re: Reliability and Continuity of Communications Networks, Including Broadband Technologies, *Notice of Inquiry*, PS Docket No. 11-60, FCC 11-55

I support today's inquiry into the reliability, resiliency and continuity of our nation's communications networks and technologies during emergencies. I am especially gratified that we are proposing terminating two open proceedings in favor of the comprehensive approach set forth in today's *NOI*. I thank Chairman Genachowski for creating a more efficient procedure for those interested in participating.

I have a particular interest in learning more about our legal authority in this area, especially as it pertains to more discrete matters such as back up power mandates, an issue the Commission has struggled with over the years. In addition, I will look for information on whether and how public safety entities may use commercial off-the-shelf equipment and technologies. I understand that the public safety community has historically opposed reliance upon commercial products due to concerns over lack of coverage, reliability and security. A consensus may be emerging among them, however, that commercial technologies may provide significant benefits, at least for non-mission critical applications. I hope to learn more about this important issue from both public safety and industry. I have long emphasized the beneficial economies of scale associated with greater use of commercial services and technologies in the public safety sector.

Finally, I want to acknowledge our colleague in the Public Safety and Homeland Security Bureau, Gary Thayer. I understand that Gary postponed his retirement to help launch this proceeding today. Thank you, Gary, for your work in this proceeding, as well as for your twenty-four years of service here at the Commission. I wish you the best and congratulate you!