

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

*Re: Certificate of Eligibility for Class A Television Status for Low Power Television Station
WTHC-LP, Atlanta, Georgia*

I vote to approve the substance of this order upholding a Media Bureau decision to dismiss the certificate of eligibility, filed by The Atlanta Channel, Inc., required to obtain Class A television station status.¹ I am disappointed, however, by the Commission's handling of this matter. Our decision finally resolves an application for review that was filed on December 20, 2000. This licensee has now waited almost twelve years for the completion of this FCC proceeding. Such bureaucratic lethargy causes uncertainty, impedes investment, and hinders innovation and economic growth. As a matter of good government, the Commission must process all cases as quickly as possible. Twelve years of inaction is not justifiable. The American people deserve better.

¹ The Atlanta Channel, the licensee of lower power television station WTHC-LP, failed to timely certify compliance with the initial eligibility requirements needed to obtain a Class A designation, as mandated by the Community Broadcasters Protection Act of 1999. 47 U.S.C. § 336(f)(1)(B).