

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

RE: *Promoting Expanded Opportunities for Radio Experimentation and Market Trials under Part 5 of the Commission's Rules and Streamlining Other Related Rules, ET Docket No. 10-236; 2006 Biennial Review of Telecommunications Regulations—Part 2 Administered by the Office of Engineering and Technology (OET), ET Docket No. 06-155*

I am pleased to support this order that modifies and streamlines our experimental licensing processes. By creating a new framework to promote research and development, our action today encourages the development of innovative next-generation technologies and hastens their introduction into the marketplace. Such efforts are critical to spur investment, economic growth and job creation. Furthermore, our actions today will help ensure that the U.S. remains the world leader in the wireless sector, as we have always been.

Among the many actions we take today, our order simplifies and harmonizes the FCC's rules for experimental licensing by moving all of the Commission's rules into one section. The ability to locate all of these rules in one place to provide clear and consistent guidance to innovators is the least we could do in the pursuit of government best practices.

I also appreciate that we are taking steps to modernize and streamline our rules. For instance, we will now apply the same limit on the number of devices that can be imported for testing regardless of whether the device contains licensed or unlicensed transmitters. Our move makes common sense in today's marketplace where many devices incorporate both licensed and unlicensed technologies.

Furthermore, we are promoting research and development by creating new categories of licenses to augment our conventional experimental licensing regime, including a program experimental license that will provide greater freedom and flexibility to qualified applicants and speed up the regulatory process. I recognize that some commenters have expressed concern that this new program license is more likely to cause harmful interference. These new program license rules, however, will impose sensible requirements to reduce the potential of harmful interference. Additionally, experimental licensees must stop testing if they cause harmful interference to an incumbent licensee's operations.

In formulating these rules, we have tried to balance the needs of experimental and incumbent licensees. I am hopeful that all affected licensees will work with the Commission – and particularly the dedicated staff of the Office of Engineering and Technology – to improve this process, if necessary.

I appreciate the Chairman's willingness to incorporate edits and I thank OET for their hard work on this order.