

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

*Re: United States Telecom Association Petition for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. §160(c) from Enforcement of Certain Legacy Telecommunications Regulations, WC Docket No. 12-61*

For years I have pushed the Commission to review its rules and weed out those that are unnecessary and outdated. Therefore, I am pleased to support this order which grants forbearance from the application of some extremely outdated and unnecessary rules – one actually dating back to the era of the telegraph.

While I had hoped that this order would have been more far-reaching, I am eager to continue working with my colleagues in a deregulatory manner as we consider the remainder of the requests set forth in USTelecom’s forbearance petition. Moreover, the Commission should take a more aggressive approach to repeal unnecessary and outdated regulations. Not only is clearing out unnecessary regulatory underbrush good public policy that ultimately helps grow the economy and empower consumers, but eliminating outdated rules is mandated by Congress as well. The FCC has an ample supply of legal tools to modernize its rules on its own motion.<sup>1</sup> We don’t need to wait for private parties to incur the expense and risk of filing forbearance petitions. For instance, as I have stated many times before, our biennial review process could be much more energetic and ambitious. Such is Congress’s expectation of us.

I look forward to continuing to work with Congress and my colleagues on encouraging the Commission to streamline its rulebook.

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<sup>1</sup> For example, Sections 10, 11, 202(h) and 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 each have a deregulatory bent.