

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

Re: Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, CC Docket No. 98-146, Fourth Notice of Inquiry

Today's action is a re-chartering of our efforts to monitor progress in the advanced services market. Every day American entrepreneurs and innovators roll-out new broadband applications. Those applications can work to stimulate demand for advanced telecommunications capabilities and broadband connections. As these applications evolve, so too should our 706 proceeding.

When we issued our last report under section 706 of the Telecommunications Act, I said that we should strive for more specific data that will allow us to better analyze precisely where operators are deploying broadband services. In this NOI and related data gathering improvement proceedings, we seek comment on how we can improve upon our current zip-code-based approach without swamping innovative new service providers in paperwork. While everyone wants more detailed reports, we should stop short of any measures that would force operators to move dollars from real-world facilities-based investment into dollars for regulatory paperwork. I believe my colleagues and I can work together to strike the right cost-benefit balance. At the very least, asking the right questions now will help us improve our reporting process and, ultimately, improve Americans' access to increasingly important advanced-communications capabilities.