

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

*Re: Unlicensed Operation in the TV Broadcast Bands (ET Docket No. 04-186);  
Additional Spectrum for Unlicensed Devices Below 900 MHz and in the 3 GHz  
Band (ET Docket No. 02-380), Notice of Proposed Rule Making*

I'm pleased that we are exploring ways of finding spectrum below 1 GHz for unlicensed technologies. The unlicensed community has requested that we find such spectrum for many years now, explaining that with it they could bring broadband to communities where it is unavailable today, and maybe even bring new competition to a market that today is characterized by inadequate competition.

As we proceed, we must of course find ways to balance the need to provide spectrum resources for innovators, entrepreneurs, and new technologies with the equally important need to avoid harmful interference to incumbent users and consumers. I believe that this NPRM asks the right questions and that it is a balanced – and actually I think a rather conservative – approach, and I hope that broadcasters and unlicensed entrepreneurs alike will work with us to craft appropriate protections as we move ahead to realize the potential benefits of unlicensed use of this part of the spectrum.

Finally, I want to encourage the Bureau and my colleagues to be vigilant to ensure that we have the investigative and enforcement resources and plans in place as we pursue more and more complicated spectrum arrangements. We may allow unlicensed operations in this band. And we have already allowed other tightly packed licensed and unlicensed use in other bands. Given the interference concerns these actions create, we must be able and ready to conduct independent harmful interference tests, and to act decisively when harmful interference has occurred.

Thanks to OET for this good item.