

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

Re: *Local Telephone Competition and Broadband Reporting*, Report and Order
(WC Docket No. 04-141)

I am pleased to support this item which will significantly help to modernize the Commission's broadband data-gathering program. Better data is the starting point for better decision-making.

Today we at last move away from our passé 200 kbps benchmark for broadband. I have advocated for some time now that we update this standard. By dividing broadband services into speed tiers, we will have data more in line with the speeds available to end-users in our industrialized counterparts. This should help us better understand how we stack up against other countries, particularly the dozen which are ahead of ours in broadband penetration. I also am pleased that we update the technology categories on Form 477. This effort will enhance our grasp of the full scope of intermodal competition. Still, I am disappointed that we continue to limit our data collection to cursory zip code information. I hope as we move forward in this process, we will not make the hasty assumption that a single customer in any zip code means that broadband is available throughout. But the net result of today's Order is clear: we will have a better picture of the state of local competition and broadband competition in this country, and a better foundation on which to build good communications policy.