

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER  
MICHAEL J. COPPS AND KEVIN MARTIN**

**Re:** *Revision of Parts 2 and 15 of the Commission's Rules to Permit Unlicensed National Information Infrastructure (U-NII) devices in the 5 GHz Band, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, ET Docket No. 03-122.*

We would like to commend the Bureau for making new spectrum available for unlicensed services. This item reflects the important agreement reached between NTIA, DOD, NASA, the FCC, and various industry groups including the Wi-Fi alliance. The underlying agreement demonstrates that hard work and public-private sector cooperation can achieve great results.

Unlicensed services are already demonstrating their great potential for consumers in other bands, from cordless phones to wireless broadband connections, such as 802.11b and Bluetooth.. We are particularly excited about the use of unlicensed networking devices to serve rural America. We have now moved well beyond demonstration projects, and unlicensed networks are bringing broadband access to places that other services have left behind. We are also hopeful that unlicensed operations will, as some have suggested, eventually provide a last-mile application to connect people's homes to the Internet, offering a real alternative to telephone wires, cable, and satellite connections.

Finally, we want to note that this item will give the American delegation to the WRC an important tool in promoting these and other wireless applications around the globe. Thank you for your hard work.