

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

*RE: Modification of Parts 2 and 15 of the Commission's Rules for Unlicensed Devices and Equipment Approval, Notice of Proposed Rulemaking; ET Docket No. 03-201.*

Spectrum is becoming more expensive. Desirable spectrum bands are densely populated. And in many areas there is inadequate competition to incumbent carriers. The Commission has a statutory duty under the Communications Act to promote the efficient and intensive use of the public's spectrum resource and to spur competition for the benefit of consumers.

One way of doing this is to give new wireless technologies the ability to compete with incumbent carriers. We're all excited about the chance that innovators ranging from CLECs to wireless Internet service providers will give us new competition and new service in rural areas. To make this a reality we should have two goals. First, we need to allow innovators to use the tools available to them to squeeze the most out of the resources available to them. Second, we need to give new competitors FCC rules that preclude incumbents from acting to slow innovation or to injure competition.

This good item is part of the struggle to achieve the first of these goals. We propose allowing the use of new antenna technologies, to modify equipment authorization procedures, to harmonize measurement procedures, and to take a long list of other actions that we hope will make innovators using unlicensed technologies better able to turn great ideas into consumer benefit.

I congratulate OET on this item and gladly support it.