

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

Re: Report and Order in the Matter of Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1.7 GHz and 2.1 GHz Bands (Adopted October 16, 2003).

The 90 MHz of additional licensed spectrum made available today is a key building block for the broadband Internet future of licensed wireless service. Across the country, wireless providers -- from Verizon Wireless in Washington DC to Monet Mobile Networks in the Dakotas -- are increasingly utilizing their licensed spectrum holdings to build infrastructure to support Internet applications. Another ninety megahertz of spectrum will add momentum to that important trend. Wireless broadband internet deployment will bring valuable new services to consumers, stimulate economic activity, improve national productivity, increase investment, create jobs and advance many other worthy objectives -- such as improving education and enhancing rural communications.

Our service rules also reflect several key principles for efficient use of spectrum as noted by the Commission's Spectrum Policy Task Force, including:

- maximizing the flexibility of licensees to choose the types and characteristics of the services that they will offer in their licensed spectrum;
- grouping like spectrum uses together so that technically compatible operations remain close to one another; and
- defining spectrum users' rights and responsibilities in the clearest manner possible.

The migration to a more market-oriented approach will not always prove easy. Today's Order, with its emphasis on flexibility, compatibility and clear definitions of rights, demonstrates how better rules can create better, more reliable, more affordable services for American consumers.

Our decision also designates spectrum for smaller license areas that may be particularly useful in rural America. Over the past few months, I have outlined a vision for competition and innovation in rural telecommunications. Central to that vision is increasing the spectrum resources available in rural America -- we also advance that goal today.

Finally, I would like to thank the National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) for their extraordinary leadership and partnership in bringing this proceeding to closure. Without our common commitment and goals, these spectrum resources would never have been made available for commercial use.