

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: Service Rules for Advanced Wireless Services in the 1.7 and 2.1 GHz Bands, Report and Order, WT Docket No. 02-353

I am pleased to support this item, which adopts service rules for advanced wireless services in the 1.7 GHz and 2.1 GHz bands. The flexible rules we adopt allow the two 45 MHz blocks of contiguous spectrum at issue to be used for a range of advanced wireless services. The wireless industry is already on the forefront in offering innovative new services, and it continues to make advances that will bring exciting new applications to consumers. For example, since we issued the notice of proposed rulemaking in this proceeding, camera phones, which send digital pictures to other phones or computers at the touch of a button, have become widely available. There are also phones that play MP3s, run video games, and connect to the Internet with ease. Better and faster services are becoming available every day.

A crucial ingredient to these services, however, is sufficient spectrum. This Order provides some of that spectrum, allowing a significant amount of spectrum to be used for services such as expanded voice, data, and broadband applications provided over high-speed fixed and mobile networks – applications often called “third generation” or “3G.” This item should thus lead to substantial consumer benefits, as new and better quality services develop in the 1.7 GHz and 2.1 GHz bands.

I would like to once again commend all of the different parts of government for working together to make this happen. In particular, the National Telecommunications and Information Administration deserves praise for spearheading this effort. NTIA, working with the Department of Defense, the State Department, the Office of Management and Budget, and the FCC’s staff, developed the blueprint for making this spectrum available. They accomplished a major step in ensuring that new and innovative wireless services will be available to American consumers.