

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL
UPON THE DEPARTURE OF COMMISSIONER DEBORAH T. TATE
DECEMBER 30, 2008**

I congratulate Commissioner Debi Tate on the conclusion of her tenure as a member of the Federal Communications Commission. Her time here has been eventful, and she should be proud of her efforts to lift unnecessary regulations in order to allow market competition to grow and flourish.

As one would expect from the former Chairman and director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, Debi has been a consistent champion of the states and promoter of cooperative federalism. This background was evident in her leadership of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, the Federal-State Joint Board on Jurisdictional Separations, and the Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Telecommunications Services.

Debi also has brought her tremendous energy to bear on issues affecting families and children. No other commissioner in the history of this agency can be said to have done more to call attention to the actions that the government, industry, and private citizens can take to help parents and children negotiate our evolving telecommunications landscape. In addition to her well-recognized efforts to bring attention to the electronic media's role in addressing childhood obesity issues, she also has been a strong advocate for private action and, where necessary, government oversight to protect youngsters. For example, she was actively engaged in the "Digital Kidvid" proceeding, helping to forge a settlement with industry under which kids under 12 are shielded from immediate online sales pitches associated with their favorite children's television shows.

Perhaps most importantly, Debi has been the voice of consensus at this Commission. She is due a tremendous amount of credit for helping the Commission find the middle ground on any number of complicated issues. Her efforts in this regard are the embodiment of "good government," and have well served the public interest.

Debi has a long and distinguished record of public service, and it has been my honor to serve as her colleague. I thank her for her service and wish her all the best in her future endeavors.