

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS**

*Re: Implementation of Short-Term Analog Flash and Emergency Readiness Act,
Establishment of DTV Transition “Analog Nightlight” Program, MB Docket 08-255.*

Having just returned from Town Hall meetings in Detroit, Michigan and Bristol Virginia, I continue to be deeply concerned about the state of our preparations for the DTV transition. We are nowhere near as ready as we could have been—and should have been—at this late date. At this point, the question is not *whether* there will be disruption, but how widespread the disruption will be and how quickly we can restore service to those who may lose it.

In that context, this Order is a welcome piece of good news. It will provide crucial information to consumers who are unprepared for the transition and would otherwise wake up on February 18 to a blank screen. I particularly commend Senator Jay Rockefeller and Representative Lois Capps for introducing the legislation and Congress for enacting it so quickly. I also commend NAB/MSTV for submitting a list of eligible stations that permits us to cover far more markets with Nightlight service than our original proposal would have covered. Finally, I commend our own FCC staff for their impressive and thoughtful work under extremely tight deadlines. I would add that many, many members of our FCC team are spending countless hours in trying to shepherd the DTV Transition to a successful outcome, and we are very, very much in their debt for both the good work they are doing and for the dedication they bring to a hugely difficult challenge.