



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, DC 20554

Michael J. Copps
Commissioner

January 28, 2009

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell
Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Rob:

Thanks so much for your thoughtful letter of January 27 and also for your very generous comments about my initial efforts as Acting Chairman. I think you know how much I value the relationship we have forged since you came to the Commission, and I look very much forward to our work together as the Commission enters a new era.

I welcome your constructive ideas to improve the operations of the FCC. I am already at work to improve our internal communications, to facilitate the flow of information, to create more transparency and predictability in our processes, and to make sure all of us are communicating with one another as a single entity rather than as disparate and disconnected compartments. I am also excited about your enthusiasm to update our IT and web systems. This work, too, can begin now. Our first effort will be construction of a more user-friendly DTV web site in time to help ease the strains of the DTV transition. And your thoughts about building opportunities for facilitating contact and collegiality among members of the various government agencies is something I have long advocated. Doing this early is all the more important given new leadership in many of these institutions. On the scheduling of open Commission meetings beyond the February and March dates already announced, for howsoever long I may be Acting Chairman, I will work with my colleagues to identify dates as close to the first Thursday of each month as possible, recognizing that there may have to be some variance to accommodate travel dates, other meetings, etc.

A couple of the interesting and promising ideas you put forward—such as reworking our Strategic Plan and conducting very extensive Commission audits—are initiatives that I believe would be more appropriately conducted under the auspices of a new Chairman. As I indicated in my remarks to our FCC team yesterday, comprehensive organizational restructuring is not something I am comfortable with in an “acting” status.

I am not disagreeing with the substance of what you propose; it's just that I believe our incoming and more permanent leadership should have the option to chart its own course in areas such as these.

Again, thanks for stepping up to the plate and offering ideas for how, together, we can enhance the operations and deepen the credibility of this great agency. I am confident that we are going to be able to make significant progress in the months ahead.

Warm regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mike", written in a cursive style.

Michael J. Copps
Acting Chairman