

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

*Re: Interference Immunity Performance Specifications for Radio Receivers; ET
Docket No. 03-65 (adopted March 13, 2003)*

The Spectrum Task Force has offered a number of proposals for refining the FCC's approach to interference and developing better metrics for describing and quantifying the interference environment in particular bands. The development of receiver standards is an integral part of this effort. Spectrum is too critical a resource in our digital economy to allow interference avoidance to be addressed on an ad hoc incremental basis. All factors that contribute to the interference environment and, ultimately, the ability of users to receive clear radio signals, must be taken into account as early in the process as possible.

Technological advancements in the ability to reject unwanted signals and the filtering capacity of radio receivers present the Commission with an opportunity. In a world where spectrum sharing is increasingly necessary and common, more selective receivers reduce the need for the Commission to become mired in paralyzing interference debates pitting incumbents against new entrants. Instead, shared expectations about the characteristics of receiver equipment allow all parties to plan for and mitigate interference.

As we initiate this proceeding, our objective is to gather information on the technological landscape – what is the state-of-the-art in receiver technology and what is deployed in the field. Without baselines, there can be no benchmarks. In developing these baselines, I prefer to rely on market incentives and voluntary industry programs to establish receiver immunity guidelines in the first instance. Such guidelines will promote more efficient use of the radio spectrum, increasing opportunities for innovation and the delivery of new services to the American public.