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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC. 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## FCC CHAIRMAN POWELL AND COMMISSIONER ABERNATHY REACT TO LINE-SHARING AGREEMENT REACHED BY COVAD AND VERIZON

Washington, DC — FCC Chairman Michael Powell and Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy today issued the following joint statement:

"We applaud Verizon and Covad for reaching a commercial agreement to provide for continued DSL line sharing.

"We have been strong proponents of such commercial arrangements, and they take on added importance and urgency as a result of the Commission's elimination of mandatory line sharing last year. This agreement and others that were reached previously will enhance choice and competition in the broadband marketplace, to the great benefit of consumers.

"We hope that other incumbent carriers and competitors continue to pursue negotiations to preserve line sharing as a viable model."