

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. McDOWELL**

*Re: Policies to Promote Rural Radio Service and to Streamline Allotment and Assignment Procedures, MB Docket No. 09-52*

It has been more than a decade since the Commission last considered rules that seek to balance our statutory obligation to implement “fair, efficient, and equitable distribution of radio service” under Section 307(b) of the Communications Act with our statutory obligation to award licenses through competitive bidding. That period of time has afforded the Commission considerable insights into the strengths and weaknesses of the current regulations. Although I do not necessarily agree with all of the tentative conclusions associated with the questions set forth in this Notice, I appreciate the flexibility afforded me in the editing process. I thank the staff for its hard work at making a complex subject comprehensible, and I will review with interest comments we receive on the many issues that the item raises.