

## STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER ROBERT M. MCDOWELL

*Re: 2006 Quadrennial Regulatory Review and 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review – Review of the Commission’s Broadcast Ownership Rules and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, et al., MB Docket Nos. 06-121 and 02-277, MM Docket Nos. 01-235, 01-317 and 00-244*

With this Further Notice, we embark on the Commission’s next comprehensive review of the broadcast ownership rules. Our rules must take into account the dramatic changes that have occurred in the media landscape since the Commission adopted them. At the same time, we must ensure that the rules continue to promote the long-standing values of competition, diversity and localism that lie at the foundation of our nation’s broadcasting system.

I hope that our review will result in a reasoned framework that answers the legal and evidentiary issues posed to us by the Third Circuit in the *Prometheus* decision and resolves the regulatory uncertainty that followed the appeal of the Commission’s 2002 order through the courts. The questions asked in the Further Notice provide a solid start to our inquiry.

As our experience with the 2002 biennial review revealed, the debate over broadcast ownership is a debate about the vitality of our democracy and the appropriate balance among competitive efficiencies, diversity of voices and local focus. The debate elicits the opinions and passions of people from all walks of life from all over the country. I am eager to learn more about the issues from the perspectives of all of the interested parties, be they broadcasters, consumers, academics, artists or others.

I thank Donna Gregg and the Media Bureau staff for their hard work on this important proceeding. I support the Further Notice and commend the Chairman on his strong leadership in this area.