

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN KEVIN J. MARTIN**

Re: *Petition of AT&T Inc. for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) From Enforcement of Certain of the Commission's ARMIS Reporting Requirements; Petition of Qwest Corporation for Forbearance from Enforcement of the Commission's ARMIS and 492A Reporting Requirements Pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 160(c), WC Docket No. 07-139; Petition of the Embarq Local Operating Companies for Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) From Enforcement of Certain of ARMIS Reporting Requirements, WC Docket No. 07-204; Petition of Frontier and Citizens ILECs For Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) From Enforcement of Certain of the Commission's ARMIS Reporting Requirements, WC Docket No. 07-204; Petition of Verizon For Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160(c) From Enforcement of Certain of the Commission's Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements, WC Docket No. 07-273; Petition of AT&T Inc. For Forbearance Under 47 U.S.C. § 160 From Enforcement of Certain of the Commission's Cost Assignment Rules, WC Docket No. 07-21; Service Quality, Customer Satisfaction, Infrastructure and Operating Data Gathering, WC Docket No. 08-190*

Today, we take another step to remove unnecessary regulatory burdens and ensure a regulatory level playing field. We eliminate outdated reporting requirements that applied to a small class of carriers, retaining only those requirements that still serve a useful regulatory purpose.

And if the Commission does believe specific information is needed in today's competitive marketplace, then we should collect that information from all industry players rather than a handful of carriers. Therefore, we initiate a proceeding to determine whether and how to collect such information across all platforms.

The ARMIS service quality and infrastructure reports adopted almost two decades ago are remnants of legacy regulation on monopoly providers. As competition increased, the need for these safeguards and the utility of these reports diminished. Moreover, their competitors are not required to file the reports. Therefore, even if some information is important to disclose publicly to help inform consumers and ensure an open market, it needs to be provided by all the competitors. Indeed, failure to require all competitive platforms to file the same information would not paint an accurate picture of the industry today. Such information is not useful or reliable unless we obtain it in a uniform manner from providers across all platforms.

I am pleased that we also extend to Verizon and Qwest the cost allocation forbearance relief that we provided AT&T earlier this year. Like the ARMIS service quality and infrastructure reports, these rules have been in effect in one form or another for decades and no longer serve the purpose for which they were imposed. Verizon and Qwest will continue to file price, revenue, and total cost information necessary to achieve the goals of price cap regulation. But we relieve them of the burden of this legacy regulation from a much different era.