

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER  
KATHLEEN Q. ABERNATHY**

*Re: Telephone Number Portability – Carrier Requests for Clarification on Wireless-Wireless Porting Issue, CC Docket No. 95-116 (adopted October 3, 2003)*

This Order is an important step in providing additional necessary guidance to wireless carriers concerning the implementation of wireless-to-wireless local number portability (LNP). There is no doubt that as wireless LNP is implemented, customers will benefit from the ability to port their numbers to whatever wireless or wireline service provider they choose.

Nonetheless, despite the best efforts of the Commission and the industry to ensure that wireless LNP is fully implemented, there is a potential for operational problems to arise, as can happen with the rollout of any new technology. For example, at least one study has estimated that as many as six million customers may seek to port numbers the first week our new rules take effect (with volumes dropping dramatically after the first week). As the porting framework is tested, it is possible that some customers may experience delays in the porting between carriers and other potential problems may arise.

Accordingly, it is critical for the Commission and industry to continue to work collaboratively to ensure that wireless LNP is fully available to the American public and to educate consumers about the process. Industry must work diligently to implement these requirements on a timely basis and cooperate with one another to complete the porting process. Perhaps most importantly, industry and the FCC need to ensure that customers understand their rights.