

**STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS,  
APPROVING IN PART, DISSENTING IN PART**

*Re: Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service*

I dissent in part from today's decision to the extent it grants a waiver of our prohibition on carriers marking up their universal service line items. I am troubled by several aspects of this interim waiver of our interim rules. First, I am concerned that, after adopting a rule that prohibits mark-ups of the universal service line item just this past December, the Commission right out of the block grants a waiver without any analysis of the impact, the cost, or the precedent it creates for additional mark-ups. Second, these mark-ups may affect small and medium enterprises and will require these small businesses to subsidize large businesses. Finally, although the majority asserts that it will reexamine the issue in the near future, it provides no specific timeline for this proceeding. I have seen too often that interim policies can exist for years before the Commission addresses them. For the foregoing reasons, I respectfully dissent in part.