

**Broadband Summit: Connecting America**  
**Federal-State Joint Conference on Advanced Services**  
**Remarks of Larry S. Landis, Commissioner**  
**Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission**  
**State Chair of the Joint Conference**  
**November 6, 2008**

**1. Introductory Remarks & Acknowledgments**

Good afternoon. On behalf of the state members it is my pleasure to welcome you to what promises to be an interesting and informative afternoon.

I want first to acknowledge Chairman Martin's leadership and commitment to ubiquitous access to advanced services. He has been tenacious in his advocacy and advancement of that goal. During his service on the Commission, both as a member and as its Chairman, we have made great progress across the nation. I also want to express our appreciation for his leadership and support in reconstituting the 706 Joint Conference.

I also want to acknowledge Commissioner Tate, who has taken on the sometimes thankless and often challenging task of chairing not only this group, but also the Federal-State Joint Boards on Separations and Universal Service. The latter are among the most complex and intractable areas of communications policy. Those of us from the state side who worked with Commissioner Tate when she served on the Tennessee Commission value her friendship, her grace and her collegiality then, as we do now.

Our colleague and former FCC Commissioner Rachele Chong of California, who is State Co-Chair for Programs, will be joining us later this afternoon. It is Commissioner Chong who, working with Commissioner Tate, with Greg Orlando in her office and with others at the FCC, has been responsible for assembling the lineup of speakers we will hear from this afternoon. When you see her later, please acknowledge her considerable contribution. We are also indebted to the California PUC and its staff, particularly Robert Haga.

Commissioner Randy Mitchell of South Carolina, who is State Co-Chair for Policy, is unable to be with us today.

[go to remaining state Commissioner introductions]

## **Formal Opening Statement**

We are here today both because as a nation, we have come far in the nine years since establishment of the Joint Conference, and because we still have further to go. We are here to celebrate Federalism at its best. We are also here to remind ourselves of our obligation to address those who are currently unserved...the least, the last and the lost.

The least...the working poor and others for whom the door-opening opportunities of advanced communications may seem beyond reach financially. The last...those who currently are on the fringes of technology's ability to deliver on the promise of broadband. And the lost... those who for a variety of reasons have not yet embraced the value proposition which can be opened to them.

At the national level, we acknowledge the essential role of table-setting and getting the framework right; and we will take an early look at the health care initiative which our Federal colleagues have launched with Universal Service funding.

We are also here to celebrate innovative programs fostered by the vision of state and local governments and partnerships. Indeed, depending on the organization doing the counting and what programs are counted, there are currently major programs in operation in over 80% of the states. In the process of looking at these best practices, we will celebrate success stories, examine works in progress and share visions of achievement which are in the early stages of implementation.

From the Mayor of a small town in southern Indiana who was told "no" by the incumbent provider and became determined to bring wireless broadband to his community because he was inspired by the needs of constituents like the single mother who needed a high speed connection to retain her job as a medical transcriptionist...to those employing satellite communications...the native American triage and basic health care providers in remote Alaskan villages and the distance learning educators in that state whose linked classrooms span an area larger than the state of Connecticut.

In short, we are here to explore the marriage of technology and the human spirit. And we are here to renew that promise to all Americans.