

January 28, 1999

**SEPARATE STATEMENT OF  
COMMISSIONER HAROLD FURCHTGOTT-ROTH**

**Re: In the Matter of Inquiry Concerning the Deployment of Advanced Telecommunications Capability to All Americans in a Reasonable and Timely Fashion, and Possible Steps to Accelerate Such Deployment Pursuant to Section 706 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (CC Docket No. 98-146).**

I support today's report that tentatively concludes that advanced services are being deployed in a reasonable and timely manner. While I recognize that not all Americans currently have access to such services, the actual deployment of this emerging market is growing dramatically. Moreover, I am encouraged by the substantial investments in broadband technology that numerous companies are making. This is one example of the success of the Telecommunications Act of 1996. The 1996 Act, and its technology neutral approach, anticipated that consumers would be able to receive such advanced services from a wide range of competitors -- including incumbents and new entrants. Indeed many of the companies offering such services to consumers were created by the 1996 Act's emphasis on local competition. This report is concrete evidence that the 1996 Act is working.