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## Interim Chairman Copps Addresses USF and Wireless Handset Exclusivity Arrangements

In prepared remarks at a conference in Washington, D.C., Interim FCC Chairman Michael Copps discussed the nation's commitment to broadband and the development of a national broadband plan. Among other topics, the Interim Chairman discussed the third quarter Universal Service Fund contribution factor, which will be at an all-time high of 12.9%, and the need for "comprehensive, holistic reform of Universal Service." Copps also discussed exclusive arrangements between wireless carriers and handset manufacturers, strongly suggesting that the FCC will initiate a proceeding that will take a critical look at such arrangements. A copy of Interim Chairman Copps' remarks is available at [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov).

## FCC Announces Changes to Advisory Circular on Obstruction Marking and Lighting

Last week, the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) announced changes to its Advisory Circular 70/7460-1K, Obstruction Marking and Lighting, which will incorporate Audio Visual Warning Systems (AVWS) as an acceptable form of marking and lighting to identify an obstruction to air navigation. The FAA will accept, analyze, and approve an AVWS as an alternative to conventional lighting systems on a case-by-case basis.

## Senate Committee Approves Genachowski and McDowell

On June 18, the U.S. Senate Committee on Commerce, Science and Transportation approved Julius Genachowski as the new FCC Chairman by a vote of 24 to 1, and approved the nomination of Robert McDowell for a second 5-year term as FCC Commissioner. While expected to occur shortly, as of today, a date for the full Senate votes on the nominations has not yet been scheduled. With the FCC's efforts on the DTV conversion winding down, it is expected that the new Chairman will focus on broadband deployment matters as he assumes his position at the FCC.

## FCC Report to Congress on ORBIT Act

Last week, the FCC released its tenth annual Report to Congress on implementation of the Open-Market Reorganization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications (ORBIT) Act. The purpose of the ORBIT Act is to promote a competitive global market for satellite communication services through privatization of the intergovernmental satellite organizations INTELSAT and Inmarsat. According to the Report, the privatization of both entities has had a positive impact on the U.S. market and the global market for communications services by ensuring increased competition and increased access, and U.S. policy goals for the promotion of a fully competitive global market for satellite communications services are being met in accordance with the ORBIT Act.

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