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Federal Communications Commission
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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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**STATEMENT OF MICHAEL POWELL, CHAIRMAN OF THE FCC,
REGARDING DENIAL OF AT&T WAIVER REQUEST CONCERNING
UNIVERSAL SERVICE REFORM**

Washington, DC – I support the Wireline Competition Bureau’s decision to deny AT&T’s request to alter how it contributes to the universal service fund. The waiver request – if granted – would increase the universal service line item on phone bills for all customers of AT&T’s competitors. To support this petition would be to shelter one particular carrier’s customers from the evenhanded application of our rules at the expense of customers of other carriers. Complex problems require long term reform, not short term fixes.

The Commission’s effort to reform how we collect money for the universal service fund in the long term is already underway. I look forward to working with my state commission colleagues and interested parties to ensure that our assessment methodology continues to be equitable, nondiscriminatory, and predictable and that it is sufficient to preserve and advance universal service in a period of dynamic and fundamental changes in the telecommunications markets.