

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL**

Re: Western Wireless Corporation and WWC Holding Co., Inc., Licensee of Cellular Radio Station KNKN343, CMA583 – North Dakota 4 – McKenzie RSA; Notice of Apparent Liability for Forfeiture

I recently announced a comprehensive, proactive approach for addressing the Commission's responsibilities in the communications tower-siting area. Enforcement action, where necessary, will be an integral part of this approach as demonstrated by our action today.

As I described in the Action Plan, the siting of communications towers places a number of worthy, but competing, federal interests in tension -- widespread deployment of advanced telecommunications networks, the protection of birds and endangered species, aviation safety, and the preservation of historic and cultural sites, to name a few. Balancing these interests requires cooperation from a number of interested parties -- including state and federal agencies, Indian tribes, environmental groups, and the communications and tower industries.