

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER JONATHAN S. ADELSTEIN**

Re: Telephone Number Portability, CC Docket 95-116.

Through this Notice, the Commission seeks comment on proposals from our North American Numbering Council to improve the intermodal number portability process. Congress viewed the ability of consumers to keep their phone numbers to be an important component of the effort to develop local phone competition and consumer choice. With this Notice, we can seek broad comment on the Council's Report and on ways to make the portability process smoother for consumers. I appreciate the work of the Council, whose recent Report forms the basis of this Notice, and the contributions of the many companies, institutions, and individuals who have made available to us the time, knowledge and experience of their staff.

I am also pleased that both the Council and the Notice recognize that a reduced porting interval may not be appropriate for small and rural carriers. Given the Act's special concern for the impact of number portability on rural carriers, paying careful attention to this issue is an important aspect of any requirements that we propose in this area. While it makes sense to seek comment promptly on the Council's recommendation, this item highlights other open issues about the implementation of LNP that we have not yet addressed. In November of last year, I shared my concern about the so-called "rating and routing" problem for wireless calls that are rated local, but are in fact carried outside of wireline rate centers. As I said at that time, we must redouble our efforts to resolve this critical intercarrier compensation issue as quickly and comprehensively as possible.