

Federal Communications Commission 445 12th Street, S.W. Washington, D. C. 20554

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STATEMENT OF FCC CHAIRMAN MICHAEL K. POWELL REGARDING CABLE-CONSUMER ELECTRONICS AGREEMENT ON "PLUG AND PLAY"

"Plug and play" cable compatibility is a key piece of the digital television puzzle. In a "plug and play" world, consumers will be able to plug their cable directly into their digital TV set without the need of a set-top box.

"Plug and play" will be good for the future of these industries, good for the digital transition, and most importantly, good for consumers.

I commend the cable and consumer electronics industries for their extraordinary efforts in reaching this agreement. This shows what progress can be made when both sides are committed to finding solutions rather than jockeying for regulatory advantage.

The agreement contains certain requests for FCC action. We will act expeditiously on those requests after other interested parties have had the opportunity to comment.