

Statement of
FCC Commissioner James H. Quello

In Re: Reimbursement of Expenses for
Participation in Commission Proceedings



I am in accord with the basic intent of the NPRM issued today, namely, to assure widespread participation that improves the quality of agency decisions by assuring that they are made on the basis of more complete and balanced records. I have in the past expressed some misgivings as to the desirability of a reimbursement program because of my concern that such a program would encourage the participation of self-appointed, narrow interest groups seeking to further their own private interests or goals. However, our proposed rulemaking provides for such standards of eligibility as to reasonably guarantee the participation of responsible individuals and groups who may be expected to contribute substantially to a full and fair determination of a Commission proceeding. My continuing concern will be that applicants in a reimbursement program, whether individuals or organizations, will in fact represent a substantial and representative segment of public interest rather than self-serving private goals. Hopefully, our proposed rules, if adopted, will provide for such assurance.