

Adopted October 14, 1988

Separate Statement  
of  
Commissioner Patricia Diaz Dennis  
In Which Commissioner James H. Quello Joins

In Re: Application of Bill Welch For Commission Consent  
to Transfer Control of the Florence, Alabama  
Non-Wireline Cellular Permit to McCaw Communications of  
Florence, Inc.

My support for this item is premised on the particular  
circumstances of the cellular industry at this point in time.  
Because extensive construction has already been completed in the  
larger markets, this ruling will generally affect only those  
smaller cellular markets now under construction or awaiting  
Commission selection of a permittee.

In smaller cellular markets, this ruling should ultimately  
benefit the public by speeding the availability of cellular  
service. It will undoubtedly facilitate the fusion of these  
smaller markets with adjacent existing cellular facilities when  
the permittee finds it uneconomic to operate a stand-alone  
system. The economics of smaller markets dictate that expanding  
an existing system to include an adjacent unbuilt market may, in  
many cases, provide service more efficiently and quickly. Only  
because of these particular circumstances in this particular  
industry do I accept the for-profit sale of construction permits  
as being in the public interest.

No one should interpret this common carrier decision as a  
precedent for allowing the sale of a construction permit for  
profit in the broadcasting industry.

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