

STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER JAMES H. QUELLO
ON CONGRESSIONAL PASSAGE OF TELECOMMUNICATIONS ACT OF 1996

FEBRUARY 1, 1996

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 is the most significant communications legislation enacted since the original Communications Act of 1934. The bipartisan effort that led to its adoption is a credit to Congress and to the Administration. The passage of this historic legislation marks the end of the old regime of telecommunications regulations -- a regime that placed primary reliance on government regulation rather than marketplace competition to secure the benefits of advanced communications technology for the American public. With its long-awaited rewrite of federal communications legislation Congress will enable the forces of technology and competition to combine to produce a host of new services that will create jobs and improve the lives of all Americans. I am looking forward to being part of the effort that will translate these changes in the law into reality. This effort will dwarf any similar efforts by the Commission before this date, and the Commission has the task of acquiring the necessary personnel and financial resources to efficiently implement the Act and serve the overall public interest.

