



# Lamar Alexander

United States Senator • Tennessee

## *Nomination of Deborah Taylor Tate to be FCC Commissioner*

*Statement of Senator Lamar Alexander*

*December 13, 2005*

*-AS PREPARED-*

Mr. Chairman, members of the Commerce Committee, thank you for the opportunity to be here today to speak in support of the nomination of Deborah Taylor Tate to serve as a Commissioner on the Federal Communications Commission. I have known Debi since I served as governor of Tennessee, and I believe that President Bush has made a superb choice to help us navigate the complicated communications questions that we will face in the next few years.

Debi has devoted a lifetime of service to the state of Tennessee, but our state's loss with this nomination is the nation's gain. She is a graduate of Middle Tennessee State University and Vanderbilt Law School. She served as a policy advisor on numerous issues to me when I was governor and as a mental health and juvenile justice policy advisor to Governor Don Sundquist. She currently serves as a Director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority after serving as Chairman in 2003-04.

Debi's work at TRA has provided her with a valuable understanding of regulatory issues that has led to her serving on numerous national advisory bodies. She has been a member at various times of the Federal-State Joint Board on Advance Telecommunications Services, the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners, the Washington Action Committee, and the American Public Gas Association Security and Integrity Foundation Board of Directors Advisory Board.

In addition, Debi finds time to volunteer for numerous organizations with a particular emphasis on children and women's issues. She and her husband William have also raised three children – Will, Taylor, and Cacky – who are all following in their parents' successful footsteps.

I take the time to emphasize Debi's broad background and experience because I believe it will be an asset in taking on the job of FCC Commissioner. The last decade has seen an explosion in the complexity of telecommunications regulation. The Internet has changed the way we all live our lives, and it has blurred the lines that have traditionally separated telephones, television, and other technologies. More than ever, regulatory decisions regarding these technologies can now have an effect on education, health care, homeland security, and defense. Even more significantly, regulatory decisions can have an effect

on tax policy, which can have serious consequences for the ability of the federal, state, and local governments to set and adhere to their budgets.

Debi's breadth of experience across a wide range of issues and her insight at both the national and state and local level will make her an invaluable asset to the FCC as it navigates these increasingly complex issues. If confirmed, the next few years of communications regulation will be in good hands.

Mr. Chairman, it is a pleasure to be able to be here today to speak in support of a good public servant and a good friend. I thank the Committee for the opportunity, and I urge the Committee to support the nomination of Deborah Taylor Tate to the FCC.