

## **The Free State Foundation**

**FOR RELEASE:**

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## **News Release**

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### **Former FCC Commissioner Deborah Tate Joins FSF As Distinguished Fellow**

**POTOMAC, MD** – Free State Foundation President Randolph May announced today that Deborah Taylor Tate, who recently completed her term as a member of the Federal Communications Commission, has joined FSF as a Distinguished Adjunct Senior Fellow. In that capacity, Tate will contribute scholarly articles and other pieces for publication by FSF and participate in FSF policy conferences and educational seminars.

In announcing Tate's appointment, May stated: "It is an honor to have someone who has such a long and distinguished career in public service affiliate with the Free State Foundation. Her expertise, experience, and dedication to the development of sound free market-oriented communications policies will enable her to make a valuable contribution to FSF's work. I would also like to recognize her service as Chairman of the Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service, where she played a well-recognized national leadership role over the past three years. As important as her substantive expertise, she earned a reputation as a leader who exhibits the ability to work collaboratively and build consensus in a bipartisan manner which resulted in the Joint Board's historic adoption of a recommendation for fundamental reform. I am sure this is an issue on which she will continue to make a positive and important contribution."

In accepting the appointment, Tate stated: "Even before arriving at the Commission, I was well aware of the valuable research and educational impact of FSF. The ability to connect complex and often technical real world issues with sound economic principles and strong academic research are important tools for policy makers. As one who always tried to be a humble regulator and who values free market principles, I am pleased to have the opportunity to contribute toward the Foundation's continued influence on policymaking and policymakers at all levels of government."

Deborah Tate served as an FCC Commissioner from January 2006 until January 3rd of this year. In addition to all of her responsibilities involving domestic communications law and policy, Tate also participated at the international level in bilateral and multilateral negotiations, the 2008 World Radio Conference and the recent International Telecommunications Union Council in Geneva, Switzerland. Prior to being appointed to the FCC, Tate, an attorney and mediator, served as a Chairman and director of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority, overseeing not only state telecommunications regulation but all utilities including gas, electricity and water. She

formerly served as legal counsel and senior policy advisor to two governors: then Governor (now U.S. Senator) Lamar Alexander and Congressman Don Sundquist. Tate also served as a Director at Vanderbilt University's Institute on Public Policy.

The Free State Foundation is an independent non-profit tax-exempt free market-oriented think tank.

***The Free State Foundation***

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