

**Statement of Richard Feinstein, Director,
Bureau of Competition, Concerning the Initial Decision
In the Matter of Polypore International, Inc., Docket No. 9327**

In the Initial Decision made public today, Chief Administrative Law Judge D. Michael Chappell granted Complaint Counsel's request for a full divestiture by Polypore of the former Microporous, including both its Tennessee and Austria facilities, and found that Polypore's non-compete agreement with Hollingsworth and Vose ("H&V") violated the antitrust laws. On September 9, 2008, the Federal Trade Commission issued an administrative complaint addressing the acquisition by Polypore of Microporous, charging that the transaction reduced competition in the markets for deep-cycle, motive, UPS, and SLI battery separators in North America. The complaint also alleged that Polypore's non-compete agreement with H&V violated the antitrust laws.

"Judge Chappell's decision is a triumph for consumers and highlights the critical role that competition plays in our economy," said Richard Feinstein, Director of the FTC's Bureau of Competition. "We brought this case because of the extensive body of evidence proving that the combination of these two competitors substantially lessened competition, led to higher prices, and reduced innovation for consumers. Moreover, Polypore's Cross Agency Agreement with H&V created significant ancillary problems – and as our efforts at trial showed, we will aggressively pursue remedies for such conduct as well. We are gratified that the Court recognized the competitive problems caused by Polypore's actions, and confident that this outcome will benefit consumers."