**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: NEWS MEDIA CONTACT:**

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**JOINT STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONERS JESSICA ROSENWORCEL AND MICHAEL O’RIELLY**

In response to the House Energy and Commerce Committee leaders’ announcement that they are initiating a series of meetings to explore the feasibility of expanding access to unlicensed spectrum for consumer use in the upper 5 GHz band, FCC Commissioners Mike O’Rielly and Jessica Rosenworcel stated:

“We commend the Energy and Commerce leaders and enthusiastically support these efforts to facilitate allowing safe, unlicensed access to the 5.9 GHz band. More than a decade and a half after this spectrum was set aside for vehicle and roadside systems, we [agree](http://www.fcc.gov/blog/driving-wi-fi-ahead-upper-5-ghz-band) it is time to take a modern look at the possibilities for wireless services in these airwaves, to allow a broader range of uses. We believe by taking steps right now, we can support automobile safety, increase spectrum for Wi-Fi, and grow our wireless economy.”