

**STATEMENT OF
CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER**

Re: Review of Foreign Ownership Policies for Broadcast, Common Carrier and Aeronautical Radio Licensees under Section 310(b)(4) of the Communications Act of 1934, as Amended (GN Docket No. 15-236).

One of my first actions as FCC Chairman was to launch a comprehensive review of the FCC's processes to identify practices that should be updated and streamlined, and one of the first decisions approved during my chairmanship focused on the process of compliance with the Commission's foreign ownership rules in the broadcast context. Today, thanks to the leadership of Commissioner O'Rielly, we take another step forward to improve the process for reviewing foreign ownership requests for broadcast licensees and the Commission.

Broadcasters want — and need — investment to continue to offer local, diverse, and informative content. Broadcasters have repeatedly told us that modernizing our foreign ownership filing and review process will promote foreign investment in the broadcast industry.

The need for additional updates to our foreign ownership rules became evident after Pandora Radio's recent purchase of KXMZ, an FM station in South Dakota. Our experience in the *Pandora* proceeding highlighted two important lessons. First, broadcasters seek greater transparency on the Commission's framework for review of foreign ownership information. Second, we can and should modernize our procedures for calculating levels of foreign ownership in line with current securities laws and regulations for widely-traded public entities.

Today's NPRM proposes updating the filing and review process so it is better adapted to the current business environment. In particular, the NPRM seeks comment on simplifying the foreign ownership approval process for broadcast licensees by extending the rules and procedures that currently apply to other classes of licensees to broadcast licensees.

The Commission will continue its substantive public interest review of applications from entities with foreign ownership above the statutory benchmarks on a case-by-case basis. As we do now, the Commission will also continue to coordinate with - and accord deference to - the relevant expert Executive Branch agencies on matters related to national security, law enforcement, foreign policy, and trade policy. We have been engaged in an ongoing review with these Executive Branch agencies to establish a more efficient and timely process for consideration of these foreign ownership requests, and I hope to see that dialogue brought to a successful conclusion in the near future.

This item is about improving and modernizing process. But reforming processes is not the goal, it is the means to better outcomes for the American people. The result of this proceeding should be an injection of capital into local broadcasters and an increase in quality content for the public.

Thank you to the Commission staff who worked on this item, in particular members of the Media Bureau and the International Bureau. Special thanks to Commissioner O'Rielly for his leadership on the issues of foreign ownership and broader process reform.