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For Immediate Release

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY
ON INCREASED USF CONTRIBUTION FACTOR**

WASHINGTON, December 11, 2015. — After hovering around the 16% mark throughout 2014 and 17% this year, the USF contribution factor tacked onto a portion of everyone's telecom bills jumps past 18% to kick off 2016. And with an unrestrained expansion of Lifeline plus an expansion of USF fees to broadband consumers at the top of many wish lists, who knows how much deeper Americans will have to dig into their pockets by next December? The entire situation is clearly unsustainable but the solution cannot be to capture broadband services in this morass.

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).