

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY**

Re: *LPTV, TV Translator, and FM Broadcast Station Reimbursement, MB Docket No. 18-214; Expanding the Economic and Innovation Opportunities of Spectrum Through Incentive Auctions, GN Docket No. 12-268.*

The importance of the incentive auction in providing benefits for all Americans by putting spectrum to its highest and best use is something that I've stated many times before. Thankfully, due to additional Congressional action last year in passing the Reimbursement Expansion Act (REA), enacted as part of RAY BAUM's Act of 2018, we are on the verge of making good on the commitment to hold certain parties not previously addressed harmless throughout the repack process.

Given that Congress provided less clarity in legislation as to how FY19 monies should be spent compared to FY18 funding, it was important for the Commission to seek comment on how to prioritize the FY19 money under the REA. While I understand that more data may be needed before making final determinations on the adequacy of the funding levels, I am hopeful that, by dispersing the payments as prioritized by the R&O, funding will remain for LPTV/translator and FM stations. In particular, I want to ensure that FM radio stations are compensated for legitimate costs in the repack process.

Finally, regarding consumer education and outreach, I will continue to beat the drum on ensuring that we use the \$50 million authorized under the REA wisely, taking targeted action in coordination with industry stakeholders and protecting against unnecessary or duplicative spending.