For Immediate Release

STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O’RIELLY ON FINAL PASSAGE OF BROADBAND DATA ACT

WASHINGTON, March 11, 2020. “Better data is essential to ensuring that scarce federal broadband subsidies are targeted to those Americans without service, and I applaud Chairmen Wicker and Thune, Ranking Members Cantwell and Schatz, and Senators Peters, Klobuchar, Capito, Moran, and Gardner, along with Chairmen Pallone and Doyle, Ranking Members Walden, Latta, and McMorris Rodgers, and Representatives Loebsack, Long, and McEachin, for their successful bipartisan efforts to help fix the FCC’s broken mapping process.

I am especially grateful that the Broadband DATA Act takes affirmative steps to restrict subsidized overbuilding by the FCC and other federal agencies, including by requiring the Commission to consult the newly created maps before awarding new funding for residential and mobile broadband deployment and enabling the Commission to determine enterprise coverage across all of the Universal Service Fund programs. I look forward to the Commission’s efforts to implement the new broadband maps as required by the Act.”

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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).