STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY

Re: Amendment of Parts 2 and 35 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Use of Earth Stations in Motion Communicating with Geostationary Orbit Space Stations in Frequency Bands Allocated to the Fixed Satellite Service, IB Docket No. 17-95; Facilitating the Communications of Earth Stations in Motion with Non-Geostationary Orbit Space Stations, IB Docket No. 18-315.

Earth stations in motion, or ESIMs, represent an exciting communications breakthrough. Depending on marketplace receptivity, they may vastly improve connectivity for Americans traveling by land, sea, or air; facilitate the advancement of autonomous cars; and enable new industrial and business applications — and do so cost-effectively. Today's efforts should help the development and deployment of these cutting-edge satellite systems.

Besides expanding the frequencies that can be used to transmit signals between ESIMs and GSO satellites, we authorize ESIMs to communicate with NGSO satellites, placing them on equal footing with GSO systems. By promoting technological neutrality, our action should promote investment and innovation in the satellite industry and throughout the broader communications sector.

While the promise of these large NGSO constellations and ESIMs seems boundless, we have virtually no record on whether their proliferation, which may be extensive, could cause harmful interference to adjacent terrestrial wireless systems in the 28 GHz band. Therefore, I am supportive of seeking further comment on whether the Commission's out of band emissions rules are adequate to ensure that NGSO ESIM communications will not interfere with wireless networks. It is unfortunate, however, that this issue was not raised in the original notice, and I look forward to its expeditious resolution.

I approve.