

**STATEMENT OF  
CHAIRMAN TOM WHEELER**

Re: *Revitalization of the AM Radio Service*, MB Docket No. 13-249

This past April, I expressed my commitment to adopt new rules to help AM radio flourish while also preserving the values of competition, diversity, and localism. Today, the Commission unanimously adopted an AM revitalization plan honoring that commitment.

This Order will ease regulatory burdens on AM broadcasters and address practical problems and interference-related issues that have long plagued AM stations. In particular, it includes multiple actions to expand access to FM translators, which are used to enhance the quality of AM signals.

First, the new rules allow a one-time waiver for stations to relocate existing FM translators up to 250 miles. Considering FM translators are often in one place when the AM broadcaster wants to use them in another, this provision will dramatically increase the usability of the 6,800 previously authorized translators on the market and should result in significantly lower prices. I'm pleased that the rules prioritize relief for those most in need with a 6-month exclusive modification window for the 4,500 smallest AM stations. This quick, targeted relief will help get translators in the hands of small stations by early next year.

Today's package also includes an exclusive opening of the FM translator window for AM licensees. While I have concerns about favoring one class of licensees with an exclusive spectrum opportunity, I welcomed the compromise proposal by Commissioner Clyburn for an AM-only auction window for small Class C and Class D stations after the Incentive Auction, with a second auction window for all classes to follow. The phased approach providing targeted relief for small stations first will help revitalize AM radio as a whole while supporting diversity in AM station ownership and content.

Today's Order would not have been possible without the tremendous leadership of Commissioner Clyburn. She initiated this proceeding during her time heading this agency, and when disagreements arose she was able to bridge the gaps and broker solutions. Thanks to Mignon Clyburn, AM radio just got a significant boost and broadcasters are better positioned to deliver diverse, localized content to the American people.