

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY**

Re: *Rural Call Completion, Petition for Waiver of Carolina West Wireless, Inc.*, WC Docket No 13-39.

I support the relief provided to Carolina West in this order. However, I would have preferred to provide that relief when the Commission adopted the *Rural Call Completion Reconsideration Order* last November.¹ As I stated at the time: “I tend to find the argument presented by Carolina West persuasive and carriers now captured by our rules should not be forced to pray that a waiver is granted, as is suggested. I suspect that we could exclude such carriers without undermining our rural call completion efforts.”² I guess I should be pleased that the Commission is finally coming around to my viewpoint.

When the current item circulated, I asked what additional information staff had learned in the intervening seven months that would make the Commission more comfortable granting the relief now. The answer was little more than a clarification regarding the company’s ownership. In other words, it was something that could have been handled through a quick conversation, avoiding unnecessary burdens on both the company and the Commission. Instead, the company had to file a waiver and the Bureau had to: (1) issue a Public Notice seeking comment on it; (2) grant Carolina West a three-month temporary waiver of the requirements pending final resolution of the petition; and (3) and draft and brief the current waiver order for the Commission’s consideration.

To be fair, Carolina West’s earlier petition for reconsideration, if granted, could have had a broader impact than granting the current company-specific waiver petition. But nothing prevented the Commission from addressing this with respect to Carolina West, when it issued the Order on Reconsideration. I hope that the Commission will do better in the future to consider the costs of its actions and avoid creating unnecessary procedures and delays.

¹ *Rural Call Completion*, WC Docket No. 13-39, Order on Reconsideration, 29 FCC Rcd 14026 (2014).

² *Id.* at 14062 (Concurring Statement of Commissioner Michael O’Rielly).