

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY**

Re: *Terrestrial Use of the 2473-2495 MHz Band for Low-Power Mobile Broadband Networks*, IB Docket No. 13-213; *Amendments to Rules for the Ancillary Terrestrial Component of Mobile Satellite Service Systems*, RM-11685.

For quite some time, the Commission has had before it a rulemaking to consider modifications to the 2.4 GHz rules that would allow Globalstar to offer a terrestrial wireless network while maintaining its satellite offering. After much debate on its original proposal, Globalstar decided, last month, to replace it with a narrower request, thereby addressing concerns previously raised. Today, the entire process comes to a positive conclusion with Globalstar's revised proposal receiving unanimous approval from the Commission.

In all fairness, I was somewhat surprised by the path this proceeding took and the public spectacle that occurred earlier this summer. I did not expect to be the deciding vote on the item, as originally circulated, but once there I went about my normal review to understand the proposal's details and the concerns raised in the record. This included extensive conversations on exactly how Globalstar's terrestrial network would work, the potential ramifications to and/or harmful interference concerns of unlicensed entities using the 2.4 GHz band, and the opportunity for greater overall spectrum efficiency. It was never my intent, nor do I believe that I was the cause of delay in reaching a decision regarding Globalstar's original proposal. Moreover, it should be noted that I found a lot of merit in that request and did not foreclose the possibility of voting in favor of it under certain circumstances, until the new proposal was put forth.

In the end, the Commission is permitting Globalstar to deploy a terrestrial network using spectrum licensed to it for satellite services. Whether that network ever comes to fruition is for Globalstar and the marketplace to decide. The Commission is merely providing additional and appropriate spectrum flexibility, which should be considered and welcomed more often, to allow for it to occur.