STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY

Re: Connect America Fund, WC Docket No. 10-90; Universal Service Reform – Mobility Fund, WT Docket No. 10-208

By resolving these petitions for reconsideration, the Commission takes another step forward on the Mobility Fund Phase II auction. Moreover, now that these relatively less controversial issues have been addressed, the Commission staff can focus on the challenge process, which has been a priority for me and a topic of intense discussion in the docket.

Concluding the challenge process and any remaining issues means we can eventually get to the point of actually holding the MFII auction. To be clear, the timing of such an auction will require more internal conversations amongst the Commissioners, as there are several large-scale spectrum auctions – namely Spectrum Frontiers and CBRS – that the Commission needs to conduct in the very near future. Since legislation to address the auction deposit issue is starting to gain traction, it is imperative we start at least planning for auctions that will get critically needed spectrum into the hands of providers seeking to bring new wireless services to Americans.

I vote to approve.