

**STATEMENT OF
COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY**

Re: *Amendment of Part 74 of the Commission's Rules Regarding FM Translator Interference*, MB
Docket No. 18-119

Since launching the AM Revitalization (AMR) proceeding, the number of licensed FM translators has increased from 1,850 in 1990 to more than 7,500 in 2017. This number will only grow, as the Commission has authorized 700 additional translator construction permits and is still reviewing more than 1,000 applications for such permits. Chairman Pai should be lauded for this, as his great work has provided dire aid for many troubled AM radio stations.

At the same time, when the AMR proceeding was launched, I questioned what, if any, unintended consequences of such a proceeding would be. The concern I commonly heard was that there would be an increase in interference and subsequent complaints to the Commission. Today, the Chair brings forth an appropriate solution with a more effective process for handling legitimate complaints. I thank him for doing so. I support such a proceeding and hope to hear from stakeholders on whether or not this will adequately address the rise in interference concerns due to the successful AMR proceeding. I will happily approve the item.