STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY

Re: Amendments of Parts 73 and 74 to Improve the Low Power FM Radio Service Technical Rules, MB Docket No. 19-193; Modernization of Media Regulation Initiative, MB Docket No. 17-105.

The fundamental principles of Low Power FM (LPFM) radio include no advertising and no harmful interference to existing broadcasters. Today, we move forward with a narrow set of improvements to our LPFM rules, and we also include safeguards to ensure certain changes do not harm other FM broadcasters. Nonetheless, I remain sympathetic to the commenters who voiced concern regarding the potential deployment of more directional antennas by LPFM stations and have to trust that proofs of performance will provide adequate insurance against misuse. Further, I understand that these antennas are expected to be used primarily in locations near our country's international borders, but this is an important issue that I intend to watch closely as these rules are implemented. On a separate note, I appreciate that we were able to include additional notification protections for Television Channel 6 stations, as we await further action on TV6 in the future.

I approve.