STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER BRENDAN CARR

Re: In the Matter of Sinclair Broadcast Group, File No. EB-IHD-16-00021748.

Today’s Consent Decree resolves a number of important and outstanding issues. While our decision recognizes that there has been no finding of liability or wrongdoing stemming from Sinclair’s attempt to acquire Tribune Media Company, I want to commend the FCC team and Sinclair for working together to bring closure to these issues. After the Commission designated some of these issues for hearing, further evidentiary review showed that Sinclair structured its transaction based on a good-faith interpretation of FCC rules and precedent. So I support our decision today, which promotes the public interest by terminating the FCC investigations.

To be sure, there are some political actors, including in Congress, that have long and repeatedly called for the FCC to go after Sinclair based on those politicians’ disagreement with the viewpoints expressed in Sinclair’s broadcasts.1 We don’t do that at the FCC—or at least a majority of us do not do that. We reach our decisions based on the facts and the law. So I appreciate the opportunity to vote on this decision.

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