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For immediate release

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O’RIELLY
ON HOUSE COMPANION TO AIRWAVES ACT**

WASHINGTON, February 7, 2018. – “I applaud Representatives Lance and Doyle, along with Guthrie, Matsui, Brooks, Welch, Walberg, and Clarke for introducing and leading the process for the House companion to the AIRWAVES Act. This critical spectrum legislation demonstrates that Congress supports – on a bipartisan, bicameral basis – firm spectrum deadlines and auctions for key bands. Further, Congressman Lance has assured me that the added provisions related to 3.5 GHz are intended to facilitate the needed spectrum auction and preserve the unlicensed portion of the band, but are in no way intended to prevent the Commission from altering its current rules as it pertains to PALs. To make these deadlines a reality, the Commission needs a technical fix to statutory requirements regarding holding upfront auction payments. I look forward to working with Congress on all of these issues in order to ensure that the U.S. leads on 5G deployment.”

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