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For Immediate Release

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O’RIELLY
ON PIRATE ACT**

WASHINGTON, May 8, 2018. — “I greatly commend Representatives Lance, Tonko, Collins, and their 11 cosponsors, for introducing the ‘Preventing Illegal Radio Abuse Through Enforcement Act.’ While prevalent today in only certain markets, pirate radio ‘stations’ are harmful for listeners as well as our nation’s licensed broadcasters. This bill rightfully increases the penalties, requires regular enforcement sweeps, and augments the tools available to the Commission, which are woefully inadequate and outdated, to deal with illegal pirate broadcasters. At the same time, the bill notably excludes legitimate Part 15 operations, otherwise known as radio hobbyists. While I defer to the legislative process, I think the PIRATE Act has a great chance of becoming law and helping stomp-out this illegal activity.”

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).