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**For Immediate Release**

**STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL O'RIELLY  
ON PIRATE RADIO ENFORCEMENT ADVISORY**

WASHINGTON, March 01, 2016. — Today, the FCC recommits to its mission to defend *all* licensed spectrum from attack, regardless of who is interfering, or why. I'm proud to join together with my colleagues on this important step toward taking back the airwaves from pirate radio operators, who steal listeners and resources from community broadcasters and endanger the public in the process. The technology boom that has brought us so many advanced electronics has also made pro-level broadcasting equipment much cheaper and more widely available, enabling pirates to multiply and expand exponentially across the radio band. While past FCC enforcement efforts have failed to keep pace with these developments, today marks a turning point. It is my hope that a thoughtful education and outreach campaign can convince those who may be unknowingly facilitating pirates to join us as partners in addressing the challenge. Together with renewed and refocused enforcement activity in the field, our ongoing effort to raise awareness will make a real difference in the fight to protect broadcasters and the communities they serve.

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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).*