

ROGER F. WICKER

MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

December 21, 2018

SUITE 555

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WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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The Honorable Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Pai,

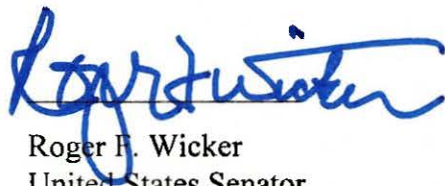
Local radio broadcasters offer a reliable and trusted means of communication for Mississippians and Americans throughout the country. Radio broadcasters deliver essential services to local communities by providing access to real-time information, including news and educational updates, entertainment, emergency alerts, and investigative reporting that helps protect the health and safety of millions of Americans each year.

As you are aware, a majority of terrestrial radio listening occurs in the FM band. I appreciate your recognition of the need to consider modernizing or updating the Commission's rules to help improve the quality of FM service in an evolving media marketplace.

In 2013, SSR Communications Inc. submitted a petition for rulemaking to the Federal Communications Commission to create a new commercial FM class, referred to as the "Class C4 FM allocation." Through this new allocation, a Class C4 FM station would be able to increase its power level from 6,000 to 12,000 watts. This power level increase could allow radio broadcasters to improve their audio quality and provide essential radio broadcast services to more Americans as long as it does not interfere with the service contours of full-service stations or FM translators. It could also help small and rural radio stations, in particular, to enhance their listening areas and better serve the public interest of the surrounding community.

There are potentially hundreds of stations in the United States – including approximately 20 radio stations in Mississippi – that may be eligible for a Class C4 designation, if created. To that end, I welcome the Commission's June Notice of Inquiry to examine proposals for a new FM radio broadcast class. I appreciate your consideration of SSR Communications Inc.'s petition related to the New FM Radio Broadcast Class C4 proceeding in MB Docket No. 18-184 and your efforts to improve the quality of FM service across the country.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Roger Wicker
United States Senate
555 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the continuing importance of radio broadcasting. Like you, I believe that local radio stations provide essential services to their listeners. That's why the Commission under my leadership has made it a priority to eliminate the regulatory burdens that unnecessarily impede radio broadcasters from serving their communities and competing in the marketplace.

The Commission's notice of inquiry on creating a Class C4 designation for FM broadcasters reflects this approach. As some have advocated, this reform could allow many Class A FM stations to broadcast with increased power—which could be especially important for small, minority-owned stations that currently cannot serve their entire communities. The Media Bureau currently is reviewing the comments collected on the notice of inquiry, and I look forward to working with you and my colleagues to improve the quality of radio service throughout the United States.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Ajit V. Pai". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ajit" being the most prominent part.

Ajit V. Pai