



March 6, 2017

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, MB Docket No. 13-249

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On March 2, 2017, the local radio broadcasters and state broadcasting association representatives listed below, and the undersigned of the National Association of Broadcasters, met with Peter Doyle, Chief of the Media Bureau's Audio Division, to discuss various policy issues concerning free, over-the-air AM and FM radio, and the unique local public service that broadcasters provide to communities across the country.

The broadcasters expressed appreciation for the Division's efforts to efficiently process hundreds of applications to acquire and relocate FM translator stations, pursuant to the Commission's Report and Order on AM Revitalization adopted on October 21, 2015. Multiple broadcasters noted that their applications were approved promptly, allowing them to launch or expand valuable programming for their local communities. The group also discussed the potential timing of a translator auction window for AM stations that did not participate in the translator modification windows in 2016.

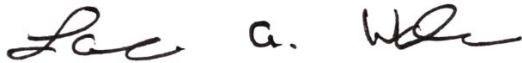
Several broadcasters expressed support for modernizing the Commission's main studio rules for both AM and FM broadcasters. They explained that relaxing the rules for locating and staffing the main studio would allow broadcasters to redirect resources toward improved local programming.

Finally, the broadcasters described the problems caused by illegal "pirate" radio operators. Several noted that pirate operators interfere with their lawful signals, and compete directly for listeners and advertising dollars, yet do not comply with any of the Commission's requirements. The group sought additional Commission attention and enforcement concerning pirate radio operators.

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The broadcasters sincerely appreciate the opportunity to discuss these important issues with Mr. Doyle.

Respectfully Submitted,



Larry Walke  
Associate General Counsel  
Legal and Regulatory Affairs  
National Association of Broadcasters

On behalf of:

|                     |   |                     |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|
| Sharon Tinsley      | Alabama Broadcasters Association        | Hoover, AL          |
| Gary Mincer         | iHeartMedia                             | Cleveland, OH       |
| Christine Merritt   | Ohio Association of Broadcasters        | Columbus, OH        |
| Ben Downs           | Bryan Broadcasting                      | College Station, TX |
| Kathy Browne        | CBS Radio                               | Farmington, CT      |
| Bob Call            | Bonneville Denver                       | Denver, CO          |
| Justin Sasso        | Colorado Broadcasters Association       | Denver, CO          |
| Jamie Hartnett      | Hawaii Association of Broadcasters      | Honolulu, HI        |
| Larry Newton        | Boise State Public Radio                | Boise, ID           |
| Carl Strube         | Port Broadcasting – WNBP-AM             | Newburyport, MA     |
| Ed Levine           | Galaxy Communications                   | Syracuse, NY        |
| Karole White        | Michigan Association of Broadcasters    | Lansing, MI         |
| Mark Gordon         | Missouri Broadcasters Association       | Jefferson City, MO  |
| Alex Snipe          | Glory Communications                    | Columbia, SC        |
| Margaret Wallace    | South Carolina Broadcasters Association | Columbia, SC        |
| David Richards      | WOON-AM Radio                           | Woonsocket, RI      |
| Mary Ann Armijo     | iHeartMedia Gallup                      | Gallup, NM          |
| Gabriel Duke Armijo | iHeartMedia Gallup                      | Gallup, NM          |
| J Chapman           | Woof Boom Radio                         | Muncie, IN          |
| Jeff Andrulonis     | Colonial Radio Group                    | Olean, NY           |

cc: Peter Doyle