



March 20, 2018

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**Via Electronic Filing**

Marlene Dortch, Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**Re: Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication with Kate Black,  
Policy Advisor, Media to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel  
RM-11727; RM-11643**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

The following telephone conference summary is submitted pursuant to 47 C.F.R. Section 1.1206(b)(1).

On March 19, 2018, Jeff Littlejohn, Executive Vice President - Engineering & Systems Integration, iHeartCommunications, Inc. (together with iHeartMedia + Entertainment, Inc., “iHeart”) and Sara Morris, Senior Director, Government Affairs, spoke by telephone with Kate Black, Policy Advisor, Media, to Commissioner Jessica Rosenworcel. Also on the phone call were Dan Dukes, Senior Director, Government Affairs, iHeart, and the undersigned.

Mr. Littlejohn suggested that the Commission evaluate whether the creation of a new C4 FM station class in fact would have the potential to assist a meaningful number of stations, noting that most Class A stations could not double power to the required 12,500 watts for the potential Class C4 class without causing interference to other stations. As for Class C3 stations, Mr. Littlejohn explained that while some C3 stations could reduce power to move closer to an urbanized area as a Class C4, he questioned whether that would further the public interest. Mr. Littlejohn stated that the key concern would be the adoption of a triggering system reducing a station to the more limited contour protections of Section 73.215 if such a station could not increase height. That would then result in radio stations with under-maximum facilities being forever locked out of future relocations in order to preserve listenership. Mr. Littlejohn explained that stations could be at less than maximum tower height currently due to the expense of taller towers, as well as zoning and FAA issues at the time of original construction. Under a trigger system, such stations would be given a window in which to move or increase power or be stuck at their

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current height. Yet, radio stations may be forced to relocate due to factors outside their control, including TV repack relocations taking priority on existing towers with limited antenna space. A trigger system would permit neighboring stations to move closer and tighter, making it very difficult for stations needing to relocate to do so without losing coverage and listeners. Moreover, a triggering system would be an “equal opportunity offender,” with both big and small broadcasters being impacted by the loss of flexibility and any resulting impact to listeners.<sup>1</sup> Mr. Littlejohn explained that anytime stations move closer together and raise power, the chance for interference increases dramatically. Mr. Littlejohn suggested that the Media Bureau evaluate how many stations could take advantage of a new Class C4, and whether such a step would improve radio service.

Ms. Morris noted that LPFM and FM Translators would be at risk with a new Class C4, with their spectrum being impinged on and facing a tougher operational environment.

Respectfully submitted,

REPP LAW FIRM

By:   
Marissa G. Repp

Counsel to iHeartCommunications, Inc.

cc: Kate Black (via e-mail)

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<sup>1</sup> iHeart participated previously in a Joint Statement with other broadcasters noting the detriments to the public and the FM band of the SSR Communications, Inc. proposal to limit interference protection for all FM stations to the contour protections of Section 73.215, rather than protection to the maximum class facilities. *See* RM-11643, Joint Statement of Beasley Broadcast Group, Inc., Bryan Broadcasting Corporation, Clear Channel Communications, Inc., Delmarva Broadcasting Company, Merlin Media License, LLC, and Radioactive, LLC (October 28, 2011).