

August 2, 2019

Greetings,

This letter is intended to express support for RM-11846.

For more than 40 years, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters has served the needs of a range of noncommercial community radio stations. We wish to join REC Networks and the communities that currently do not have any radio broadcast stations licensed to their areas to seek opportunities for the creation of new lower-powered broadcast stations during the upcoming filing window for NCE stations.

NFCB strongly believes it is in the public interest to provide more opportunities for rural communities to be served by radio, an essential medium in the nation. REC Networks has identified more than 2,000 areas that would benefit from these changes. Currently, these areas have no service at all, and new NCE radio stations would provide important access to emergency, educational and municipal information.

The benchmarks in RM-11846 are rigorous. Under the proposal, eligible applications would be in communities outside of U.S. Census Bureau designated urbanized areas, have no other radio broadcast services licensed to it (full-service AM or FM, commercial or noncommercial); meet minimum Class A requirements (service contour of 6 km or greater); operate 250 watts or less (maximum 13 km service contour); and operate in the reserved band (88.1~91.9 MHz). Additional reforms, such as a localism requirement, will prevent speculation and ensure local access.

NFCB hopes the Commission moves quickly to open new doors for America’s diverse communities by acting affirmatively on RM-11846.



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National Federation of Community Broadcasters