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**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
**Washington, DC 20515**

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND  
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

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REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL  
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EUROPE, EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST  
AND NORTH AFRICA

August 9, 2018

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Ajit Pai, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

**RE: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – MB Docket. 18-119/FCC 18-60 published in the  
Federal Register, Vol. 83, No. 109 on Wednesday, June 6, 2018**

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write in regards to the Commission's proposed rule relating to interference caused by FM translators. I have heard concerns from my constituents that the proposed rule may impact small and independent broadcasters. I respectfully request that you take into account the importance of diversity and localism during the consideration of this proposed rule.

Large numbers of Portuguese immigrants settled in the greater New England area during the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. Due to the high cost of real estate in larger cities and the search for increased work opportunities, the Portuguese community in New England has settled further out along the Massachusetts South Coast and Providence. I am proud to serve Rhode Island's First Congressional District where a vibrant Portuguese community has thrived for generations and which has been made better by the incredible contributions of Portuguese-Americans in arts, academics, politics, business, and culture.

WJFD-FM is a 50,000 watt station which operates in Rhode Island and Massachusetts and enjoys a wide coverage area as far north as New Hampshire and far west as central Connecticut. WJFD provides a unique and valuable contribution because it broadcasts Portuguese news, music and cultural programming and is able to reach communities which are located further out. In addition to broadcasting Portuguese programming, WJFD helps to bring this community together. In particular, WJFD informs its listeners about important cultural events such as The New Bedford "Day of Portugal," The Fall River "Day of Portugal," The Providence "Day of Portugal," the Provincetown "Day of Portugal" and the "Grandes Festas do Divino Espirito Santo da Nova Inglaterra" — one of the biggest Portuguese events in New England. WJFD also provides advertising for specialty grocers, shopkeepers, boutiques and restaurants. For 35 years, the Portuguese diaspora throughout New England has come to rely on WJFD as a link to Portugal, the Azores and Cape Verde.

I have heard concerns that the Commission's proposed rule may negatively affect WJFD's geographic coverage area. As a result, it could jeopardize the ability of WJFD to reach Portuguese communities in my district and throughout New England who have no other access to Portuguese programming. I request that you keep these considerations in mind during the rulemaking process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact Renuka Nagaraj in my office at [Renuka.Nagaraj@mail.house.gov](mailto:Renuka.Nagaraj@mail.house.gov) or 202-225-4911, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David N. Cicilline". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 13, 2018

The Honorable David Cicilline  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2244 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Cicilline:

Thank you for your letter in support of local, independent radio stations—like WJFD-FM—that provide excellent service to numerous communities in the United States. I agree with you that a vibrant broadcasting ecosystem is vital for the American people and that broadcasters serve a diverse set of communities that might not otherwise be served.

You mention the Commission's pending rulemaking on FM translator inference rules, which asks about a variety of proposals intended to streamline the current interference complaint resolution process. It is my hope that these proposed changes, if adopted, could limit disputes and speed resolution of complaints from full-power stations while providing additional flexibility and certainty for FM translator stations. I understand that WJFD-FM has filed comments in this proceeding, including about what contour, if any, should be used to safeguard the technical integrity of the FM band. I can assure you that Commission staff will be reviewing these and other comments thoroughly before we move forward in this rulemaking.

Your views are important and will be entered into the record of the proceeding. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Ajit V. Pai".

Ajit V. Pai