

STEVE CHABOT

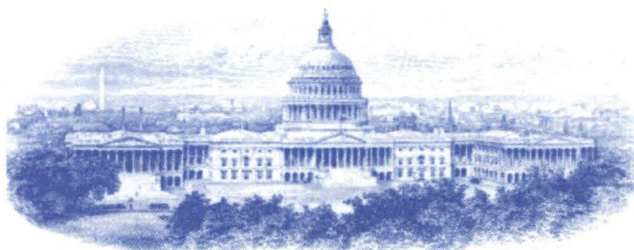
MEMBER OF CONGRESS
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INCLUDES MOST OF HAMILTON COUNTY
AND ALL OF WARREN COUNTY

DEAN OF THE OHIO
REPUBLICAN DELEGATION
Received & Inspected

SEP 19 2017

FCC Mail Room



**Congress of the United States
House of Representatives**

Washington, DC 20515

September 14, 2017

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768

**The Honorable Ajit Pai
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554**

Re: MB Docket No. 13-249

Dear Chairman Pai:

I have learned recently that the Federal Communications Commission is considering reducing or eliminating certain interference protections for AM radio stations as part of an effort to "revitalize" the AM band. I am writing to share concerns that have been raised with me about the adverse effects that these proposed changes could have, specifically by introducing new interference for AM radio listeners in the Greater Cincinnati area, throughout the southwest Ohio region, and beyond.

Cincinnati is the proud home of WLW-AM and WCKY-AM, two Class A radio stations that each transmit at 50,000 watts. These stations bring listeners in Cincinnati and our region critical coverage of local, national, and world events, and provide listeners an opportunity to discuss the news of the day with numerous on-air personalities.

I have also been informed by WLW that it serves as a specially-designated Primary Entry Point station for Integrated Public Alert and Warning System (IPAWS) Presidential Emergency Alerts. If there is interference to WLW's signal, the station is concerned this interference could impede the activation of this critical alert information. It is also my understanding that the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has raised similar concerns about the interference proposals in the current AM Revitalization proceeding and has urged the Commission take no action that would diminish the interference protections of these stations. I know you share my commitment to ensuring that my constituents in southwest Ohio (or listeners anywhere) are not put at risk during times of emergency.

My constituents are also extremely passionate about their local sports teams, and AM radio serves them extremely well. WLW and WCKY together provide our community with live broadcasts of the following local teams:

- Cincinnati Bengals football;
- Cincinnati Reds baseball;
- Cincinnati Bearcats;
- Xavier Musketeers;
- Kentucky Wildcats; and
- Louisville Cardinals

WLW and WCKY have informed me that the interference proposals currently before the FCC could cause fans within the Greater Cincinnati area to receive interference, and possibly lose coverage of local sporting events. Because the fan bases of these teams extend far beyond the City of Cincinnati, if the FCC reduces or eliminates interference protections, it is my understanding that fans across Ohio, Kentucky, Indiana, and beyond could be deprived access to the games they love. In that scenario, it will also deprive the teams themselves of the ability to extend their brand and acquire new fans in areas that currently receive their signals.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request in accordance with all applicable laws and regulations that, as you continue to discuss AM revitalization, you give every and full consideration to the potential impacts these proposals could have for the AM radio listeners of southwest Ohio and beyond. Also, please feel free to make this correspondence part of any public record.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to hearing from you on these concerns.

Sincerely,

Steve Chabot

Steve Chabot
Member of Congress



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

December 6, 2017

The Honorable Steve Chabot
U.S. House of Representatives
2371 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

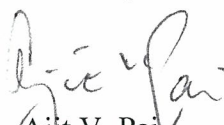
Dear Congressman Chabot:

Thank you for your letter concerning the Commission's AM Revitalization proceeding. I appreciate the opportunity to respond. I understand you believe the proposed changes to interference protection in this proceeding could adversely affect many AM radio listeners, especially those in the Cincinnati area who enjoy the programs of WLW(AM) and WCKY(AM).

Commission staff will take note of your comments on this issue as we continue to review the record. The agency may craft final rules, seek comment on alternative proposals, or reject the proposal entirely. As I'm sure you are aware, I have been quite vocal in my support for AM radio since my first days as a Commissioner back in 2012. With the help of public input such as yours, I intend to continue working towards my goal of revitalizing the AM band.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review. Please let me know if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,


Ajit V. Pai

P.S. Thanks for getting in touch, Congressman!
I hope we can get the Bengals straightened
out while we're at it.