



NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BLACK OWNED BROADCASTERS

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*Executive Director
and General Counsel*

November 5, 2014

VIA ELECTRONIC FILING

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: **Notice of *Ex Parte* Communication, MB Docket No. 13-249,
Revitalization of the AM Radio Service**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

On November 4, 2014, the undersigned Executive Director and General Counsel of the National Association of Black Owned Broadcasters, Inc. ("NABOB") had a telephone conversation with Maria Kirby, Legal Advisor, Media, Consumer and Governmental Affairs, and Enforcement, in the office of Chairman Tom Wheeler. In that conversation, the undersigned presented the following comments on behalf of NABOB:

1. Elimination of Skywave Service Protection – NABOB proposed that the Commission address an issue that has not been raised in the NPRM in this proceeding, which is a review of the Commission's current rules which protect skywave service of Class A stations for 750 miles. NABOB noted that the value of skywave service to rural communities is no longer a justification for restricting Class D stations to daytime only or very limited power nighttime operation. NABOB noted that many minority broadcast station owners operate Class D stations and would benefit greatly if they could operate at night at a power comparable to their daytime power. NABOB noted that it is unlikely that there will be enough FM frequencies in the largest markets for all Class D stations to obtain a translator. Therefore, opening up nighttime service opportunities may be the only way to help Class D stations to remain competitive. NABOB suggested that the Commission initiate a proceeding to investigate this issue.

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
November 5, 2014
Page 2 of 2

2. FM Translators - NABOB agreed with those commenters who support opening a filing window for only AM station licensees to apply for new FM translators. NABOB proposed that the Commission should open two filing windows. The first filing window should be limited to only licensees of Class C and Class D AM stations. After completion of selection of licensees in the first filing window, the Commission could open a window for Class A and Class B licensees. Each licensee should be permitted to obtain only one FM translator per AM station.

3. Relaxation of technical rules - NABOB supported the proposed relaxation of technical rules including: (1) allowing a licensee to cover only 50% of its community of license's area with a daytime 5 mV/m contour, (2) allowing a licensee to cover only 50% of its community of license's area with the station's nighttime interference-free contour, (3) repeal of the "ratchet rule," (4) establishment of a streamlined notification process for broadcasters choosing to implement Modulation Dependent Carrier Level control technologies, (5) elimination of minimum efficiency standards for AM antennas, and (6) allowing licensees to choose all-digital transmission by notification to the Commission.

In accordance with Section 1.1206(b) the Commission's rules, this notice is being filed in the Commission's Electronic Comment Filing System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "James L. Winston", is written over a large, stylized blue scribble that partially obscures the text below it.

James L. Winston
Executive Director and General Counsel

cc: Chairman Tom Wheeler
Maria Kirby