

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

November 12, 2014

The Honorable Thomas Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

1190

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

As you know, access to broadcast radio across the nation is crucial for ensuring an informed population. Access to radio in rural areas is even more vital, specifically in areas that are underserved with cable and broadband access. This is why I'm asking you to include the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) in the Matter of Revitalization of the AM Radio Service on your November Open Meeting Agenda.

Throughout my district and across the nation, there are many local AM stations providing important services to their communities. AM stations are relied upon for local news, school closing announcements, high school sports coverage, emergency weather information, and entertainment. I urge the Commission to take a vote on the Revitalization of the AM Radio Service as soon as possible. The Open Meeting scheduled for November 21, 2014 is the next opportunity for the Commission to take up this matter. A vote will allow AM stations to improve their services and therefore allow broadcasters to better serve the public.

As you know, Commissioner Ajit Pai has been a leader in AM revitalization and has personally met with AM broadcasters across the state of Wisconsin, including owners of WRDN-AM Durand and other stations in my district. Folks back home have expressed to me how great Commissioner Pai has been to work with and I applaud him for his efforts. His accessibility is an example of how government officials can work with business owners to find common sense solutions.

I encourage the Commission to include the AM Revitalization NPRM on the Open Meeting Agenda scheduled for November so that our AM broadcasters can continue to provide vital services in our communities.

Sincerely,



RON KIND
Member of Congress



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

November 26, 2014

The Honorable Ron Kind
U.S. House of Representatives
1502 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Kind:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Commission's proceeding on AM revitalization. I appreciate hearing your views on the matter, and your letter will be made part of the official record.

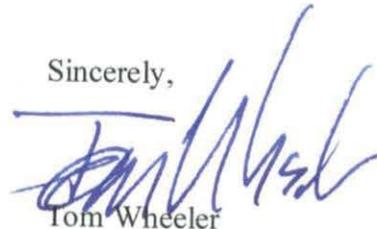
The Commission adopted the AM Revitalization *Notice of Proposed Rulemaking* at the end of October 2013. The comment periods were extended into the spring of this year with reply comments filed on March 20, 2014. Currently, Media Bureau staff is reviewing the record, including the comments submitted by your constituent, WRDN-AM Durand, and the other entities that filed on the station's behalf. Upon completion of its review, the staff will develop recommendations for the full Commission's consideration. Given that the review process is still ongoing, the Commission was unable to take up an item at its Open Meeting this month.

I understand your desire for quick resolution to the pending issues. As you know, the main issues raised in the proceeding are ones that focus on technical rules. In fact, it was the Association of Federal Communications Consulting Engineers that requested an extension of the reply comment deadlines earlier this year in order to evaluate the proposals and comments submitted by the numerous interested parties. Generally, I am very supportive of swift action by the Commission to resolve pending proceedings, but I also want to ensure that we get it right, especially when it comes to dealing with interference and technical issues.

I assure you that the staff is working diligently to evaluate the record in the proceeding and complete their recommendations as quickly as possible.

I hope this information is helpful.

Sincerely,



Tom Wheeler