



Date: May 14, 2015

To Whom It May Concern:

I am the licensee of Mountain Valley Broadcasting, Inc., which three AM stations and a translator, in three small communities in Maine. I have been an owner-operator for 40 years.

Last year, I was able to purchase a translator for WEZR-AM in Lewiston, ME (W388CW), which has made a big difference in improving my service to our community of 100,000. For instance, we have been able to start "The Breakfast Club" talk show each weekday and have already had 426 local guests in the studio, including our Gubernatorial Candidates: Emily Cain, Elliot Cutler, Auburn Mayor, Jonathan LaBonte, Lewiston Mayor, Bob Macdonald, Chip Morrison, President Androscoggin County Chamber of Commerce, John Holden, President of Lewiston-Auburn Economic Growth Council, Peter Geiger, Editor of the Farmer's Almanac. We have also been able to cover the Grand Re-Opening of Whiting Farm, Androscoggin Home Care & Hospice 5K & Remembrance Walk, Central Maine Medical Center and St. Mary's Ebola Special Report, Emerge Film Festival. Additionally, our local hospital Central Maine Medical Center has partnered with us to have a bi-monthly show called "The CMMC Hour" where health topics are covered in panel discussions with doctors and surgeons. We even have a series called "LA's Got Talent" where local musicians come on and play live. WEZR is THE only FM station that broadcasts high school sports for football, basketball and hockey which is huge in our community and people do not stop thanking us for all we are doing. Before obtaining a translator, WEZR had minimal listeners because unless people are of a "certain age" they were not changing their dial to AM unless it is news or sports.

My two remaining AM stations, WKTQ (1kw) in So. Paris, ME and WTME (1kw day/ 18w night) in Rumford, ME, and listeners to those stations, could also benefit from a translator. However, no translator frequencies have been assigned in either market, so there are simply no translators available for me to even to try to purchase. Although, I am certain that open frequencies could be found because of the remote locations of these towns. Unfortunately, we were not allowed to participate in 2003 translator window because AM stations couldn't use translators yet.

I have been looking forward to participating in an AM-only window for FM translators ever since the FCC first raised the possibility more than a year ago. With a translator for these stations, we could launch coverage of local sports, political debates, local events, closed roads and emergencies, whatever the case may be. This would be another great opportunity to reach and attract more listeners with our enhanced signal and content that I know this community would really appreciate and have never had before. We have even been approached by a local hospital to offer something similar to "The CMMC Hour".

I read your blog and realize that a lot of new translators have come online around the country over the past few years, but there are no frequencies assigned to translators in our area, and nothing new on the horizon, and I can assure you that there are hundreds if not thousands of AM broadcasters in a similar situation.

Our industry needs your help. I am in favor of opening a translator filing window for AM broadcasters.

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