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FCC Mail Room

KEVIN BRADY  
MEMBER OF CONGRESS  
8TH DISTRICT OF TEXAS

DEPUTY WHIP

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HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
WASHINGTON, D.C.

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October 13, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler & Commissioners  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, Washington, DC 20554

Re: KWBC, Navasota (TX)

Dear FCC Chairman Wheeler and Commissioners,

My office has been contacted by constituents and elected officials in Navasota, Texas, troubled by the inability to pick up the radio signal of KWBC-AM within the city of Navasota following the shutdown of the local transmitter. I write today to inquire about what is needed for the Federal Communications Commission to grant a Special Temporary Authorization (STA) for Bryan Broadcasting to continue operating KWBC from their former transmitter site in Navasota, TX.

KWBC is currently operating under Program Test Authority pending completed action on a license to cover a facility modification and change to the city of license (BL-20150724AIP). This station is a vital part of the Navasota community. Navasota relies on KWBC and Bryan Broadcasting has two full time news people at KWBC to keep Navasota informed.

Navasota residents and businesses rely on KWBC-AM, "NavasotaNews1550" for daily local newscasts and high school sports. Navasota is home to over 7200 residents. Nearly two dozen industrial companies operate in Navasota and employ more than 1200 individuals. The Navasota Rattlers were the 2014 4-A Division I State Football Champions and in case you didn't know famed dancer Alvin Ailey and two Major League pitchers once called this Blues music capital of Texas home.

I respectfully request a reply as to what steps the FCC can take to help KWBC continue to provide the Navasota community the local broadcasts it counts on. I thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Kevin Brady  
United States Representative  
Eighth District Texas



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

November 12, 2015

The Honorable Kevin Brady  
U.S. House of Representatives  
301 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Brady:

Thank you for your letter inquiring about what is needed for the Commission to grant a Special Temporary Authority (STA) for Bryan Broadcasting to continue operating KWBC-AM from their former transmitter site in Navasota, TX. Your views are very important, and I hope the information provided below is helpful.

At this time, the Media Bureau's Audio Division does not have a record of receiving a STA request regarding KWBC. A STA may be filed only by the licensee and cannot be filed by persons who wish to receive the station's signal. If KWBC were to submit a STA application, it must fully demonstrate the necessity for KWBC to operate temporarily from a site other than the one specified in the station's current authorization. STA requests usually are based on temporary technical issues or equipment problems, and in general, a STA may not be granted for more than six months.

In 2012, the Commission granted Bryan's application requesting authorization to change KWBC's community of license from Navasota to College Station and relocate the station's transmitter. According to Audio Division records, the government of Mexico objected to the operation of KWBC's facilities at Navasota due to concerns about interference to an established Mexican radio station. Pursuant to our agreement with Mexico, this objection must be given full consideration. However, this objection became moot when KWBC moved to College Station. Bryan Broadcasting began operating the new facilities in College Station pursuant to program test authority on August 27, 2015, and the new facilities were licensed by the Commission on October 8, 2015.

Finally, because modifications to KWBC's facilities and services may be requested only by the licensee, your constituents may wish to contact Bryan Broadcasting to discuss options that may permit them to receive the station's signal. In addition, your constituents may be interested to learn that KWBC programming is streamed on the Internet. Residents of Navasota may access the station's programming by visiting <http://navasotanews.com/>, and selecting the "Listen Live" option.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler