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January 15, 2016

The Honorable Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am very concerned about a high-profile case of malicious interference to VHF and UHF communications that has affected various radio services, including public safety radio, and Federal Communication Commission's licensees throughout metropolitan New York City and Long Island. While there are apparently multiple perpetrators involved in this activity, I am told by the Amateur Radio Relay League (ARRL), the national association for amateur radio, there is one ringleader, whose identity and location of Astoria Queens are well known to your Enforcement Bureau.

This individual has been reportedly intentionally transmitting on a series of amateur radio repeaters, operational frequencies of Rikers Island Prison and NBC radio network's remote pickup repeater facilities that are used for relay of over-the-air program material. I am told that this individual conducts his unlawful activities daily with the specific intent of disrupting licensed communications. The amateur radio repeaters on Long Island that are rendered useless by this individual are used for emergency preparedness exercises and were used extensively in Hurricane Sandy disaster relief efforts.

In previous correspondence with the FCC, I have expressed my strong concern with interference caused by pirate radio operators, especially when these interruptions have an impact on public safety. This individual has been allowed to proceed without any apparent Commission enforcement for well over two years, despite repeated complaints from ARRL, NBC engineering staff and at least two Long Island amateur radio clubs.

I understand that the Commission's spectrum enforcement resources are limited and that investigations of pirate radio are resource intensive. However, this malicious interference has been allowed to continue for too long. Timely and visible enforcement creates a deterrent that is very valuable and lessens the use of Commission resources.

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I appreciate the actions the Commission has taken to search for solutions that are supplementary to the enforcement of regulations pertaining to pirate radio. However deliberate interference with public safety, broadcast program production and amateur radio public service communications, such as what is exhibited in this case, must be swiftly and visibly addressed in order to achieve this deterrence effect. I appreciate your consideration and look forward to your reply.

Sincerely,

Pete King

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