

I am writing to comment on the FCC's proposed AM Revitalization Plan. I am very pleased to see that the FCC recognizes the importance of AM Radio and I commend the FCC for its efforts to both revitalize and localize AM radio and its impact. I believe that in large part, the proposed changes are very positive, and I fully support them, with one exception. That exception is the elimination of protection of nighttime coverage of Class A AM radio stations in the continental U.S.

It is CRITICAL, as a matter of national security (as well as public awareness and entertainment) to keep our nation's "50 Clear" stations serving wide areas of our country, especially in nighttime hours. While entertainment is important, the security aspects in the event of national emergency or disaster are absolutely critical. Numerous examples, including the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, are well known to the FCC, and there are many other similar examples.

While I support localization and I support no further licensing of such Class A stations, except on a case-by-case basis, demonstrated by need in serving underserved communities, I believe that retaining the existing Class A protection is vital to their existence and ability to serve their communities, especially in the event of disaster or national emergency, including terror attacks and natural disasters. While the FCC should, I believe, focus not on business aspects of radio stations, the practical reality is that only large, Class A stations with significant day and nighttime "service footprints" have and can maintain the staffing and technological capabilities to adequately serve the public in the event of a disaster. Further, the need to have localized presence on the scene, but information distributed to wide geographical areas FROM THAT LOCALITY, rather than redirected from distant stations local to adjacent service territories, is also vital. Relatively distant citizens must get this critical information, not from small, distant stations, but directly from the scene of the disaster. This can only be accomplished if Class A stations can continue to operate and serve wide geographical areas during the nighttime.

It cannot be ignored that this nation's unique history includes the presence of these Class A stations, and the impact on our culture and society through the years is huge. While modernization is good, losing this single aspect that is "uniquely American" has great national cultural value and is very much worthy of preservation. To eliminate the Class A "50 Clear" AM station in the U.S. would strike a significant, negative blow to our history and our culture as Americans. This point is secondary to the critical national security aspect of this provision, yet it is important to consider as part of the overall modernization proposal. Once lost, we will never regain it.

In summary, keeping these stations' nighttime service areas open and serving large geographical areas is critical for our nation and its national security interests. Please keep this intact!

As a private citizen, with absolutely no interest in radio stations or any related businesses, I hope my perspective is of value to the Commission, and I thank you for the opportunity to comment on this important topic.

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