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I have been in the radio business for 40 years and have seen many changes in the industry. I have always ran my station with an emphasis on serving the local community as radio was intended to do. I have worked in multiple markets, and in my experience, the larger the market or corporate owner, the less emphasis there is on serving the station's community. I now own and operate a standalone AM station that strives to service the local region within a 50 mile radius of our studios. We are very involved in our communities' events, fundraisers, county fairs, and festivals and provide original programming designed for the communities we serve.

As one who grew up listening to 50kW+ stations, the listening world today is very different. There was less man-made AM interference. Powerhouse stations developed their own programming, day and night, with specialty shows and on-site personalities. Today, the majority of these stations duplicate syndicated shows on many of their channels. I understand the concerns of the large Class A operators, but they seemed to have lost interest in their AM stations until this proposal. This has been seen with the quality of their programming and audio fidelity. In addition, all of these stations have the means to stream online or use mobile apps if they wish to provide access to long distance listeners. If Class As are truly concerned about the potential loss of terrestrial listenership from long distances, perhaps these stations should back up their supposed necessity by providing their ratings in these markets hundreds of miles away.

Some critics have stated clear channel stations are needed to broadcast potential disasters. While these stations utilize the EAS system for their own immediate area, they do not provide the important weather warnings and other notices that impact our immediate counties in our listening region. That is where our EAS and signal are vital to the safety of our community. We would appreciate the opportunity for the FCC to increase power so local AMs, such as ours, can better serve our communities with quality, local programming. At several events we attend in our service area, we have listeners from just 50 miles away say they enjoy our programming and the relevance to their lives, but also say, "Wish we could hear you better. Can you increase your power?? With satellite radio, music streaming services, and podcasting, our station prefers to offer pertinent, local programming rather than syndication or content they can get anywhere else. We appreciate your consideration and hope you assist local AMs in doing what they were designed to do-- serve their communities.

Sincerely,

David Brown