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Stations' primary obligation is to the community of license they promised to serve. Signal "splashover" coverage in other regions that are dependant on skywave and atmospheric conditions should not be the barometer that could prevent other local stations from serving their local markets.

The Commission is hopefully aware that there is a promo running nationally on iHeart stations soliciting the public on behalf of iHeart to write to the Commission and cry crocodile tears over what would happen to poor little iHeart if the commission were to rule in favor of the mom and pop or smaller stations who are trying their best to serve their local communities.

It turns my stomach to see iHeart use their clout to convince the listeners to do their dirty work for them... and this even on the heels of their documented and questionable activities in bullying their way into Commission offices ex parte to have private meetings on the subject. FCC action on Revitalization can become the great equalizer for the little broadcaster who serves his community of license as best he can and awaits the help of the Commission to see that fairness prevails.

Regarding AM receivers in cars??? a little anecdote of historical interest here: Many of the engineering community were aghast last year at the announcement by BMW that they were dropping AM on their receivers because of ignition noise. Are we really to believe that this is the reason when Ford Motor Company solved this issue from their notoriously noisy engines way back in the mid 50's? Many engineer-types who are coincidentally ham radio operators may recall that one could win a bet that a car approaching while still out of view might be a Ford simply by judging how much noise was generated on the AM radio they were listening to at the time. Eventually, a 50 cent bypass capacitor solved the entire problem and physics being the same today as then makes one wonder whether this may be a receiver manufacturer that supplies BMW and is really more about their business arrangement or economy, and has been a non-issue since Ford solved it long ago.

The discussion on AM Revitalization truly is pretty simple. The high power clear channel stations were designed to serve wide areas, rural areas, with a vital communication link at a time when AM radio was "king" in the early 20th century when there were no viable alternatives other than newspapers, telegrams and the US Mail. Those days are long over almost 100 years later.

I certainly question the validity of any methodology utilized by iHeart and others to measure the somewhat unreliable skywave audience, especially in the middle of the night, in order to claim loss of income to them. They seem to detrimentally rely on coverage outside of the station's license area... This is a splashover benefit they are not actually entitled to in the first place. Note that they apparently seem to shoot themselves in the foot with this argument, relying on imagined loss of signal during drive time and even if they did, Drive time content is particularly applicable and peculiar to only the local market which the station is officially licensed anyway!

The other element is that the deregulated marketplace has created a lack of independent voices on the public airwaves. This consolidation has also proved to be a financial disaster for those like iHeart and Cumulus negatively impacting their ability to serve the public's "interest, convenience and necessity."

It seems as if clear channel stations such as KFI no longer cater to remote listeners and make no revenue beyond their ADI. So, why would they care if their 1930's coverage area was diminished? Let us not forget that the big guys are also entitled to stream their content or utilize the availability of FM translators to fill in signal gaps, just as other broadcasters.

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I would like to offer a very good antidote for all this nonsense: I anticipate a void in the comments needed from the the mom and pops because they are all too busy

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to write comments as they struggle to run their operations. But wouldn't it be sweet for the Commission to have comments from every Class B station in the country that could provide local groundwave service if not for the present requirements for protecting Class A stations at night saying that they would like to be able to invest in making the necessary changes to meet new FCC rules for doing that. You KNOW they would!

So I say it again, like Mahi-Mahi... a statement so important, we say it twice:

The independent local voices are far more important than a distant signal in this digital age.