

January 16, 1999

Secretary Kennard, Federal Communications Commission (FCC)

In reference to: RM 9419

This is to acknowledge my support for the proposals contained in RM-9419 to allow AM standalone stations with daytime only or extremely low night power to operate and simulcast on a FM translator within their city grade contour for fill-in service.

This is a long overdue proposition for the improvement of AM radio in rural communities such as mine here in the coal fields of Western Kentucky. In addition to my duties as pastor of a local church I am also employed on the local police department and we, at times rely greatly on our local radio service, even though we have 4 stations in our county only one is locally owned and operated (WMTA AM) while the other three are all owned by one company which also owns the local newspaper. This has just happened in the past 24 months. They have installed computer automation on their 2 FM's and simulcast one of the FM's on their AM (WNES) so it is rare to ever find someone on the air live at their stations except for perhaps a couple of hours each day in the morning. One of their FM's is a 100,000 watt station which places most all its attention on the 2 larger populated cities to our north : Evansville, Indiana and Owensboro, KY, the only way of knowing that station is a Central City, KY station is by listening to the top of the hour identification.

WMTA serves our community well with the facilities they have and the limited power available to them. But when it comes to night service they can't even cover the city because of their low power and if they had a FM translator for fill-in service they would be able to provide the community the same great service at night that they are know for doing in the day as being our only true local radio station in this community.

FM and TV have fillin-service. Why can't AM radio?

Thankyou
Rev. Joey Vincent
887 Doss Road
Greenville, KY 42345