



January 10, 2000

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Ms. Magalie R. Salas
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: MM Docket No. 99-325

Dear Ms. Salas:

These comments are being submitted in response to the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning Digital Audio Broadcasting ("DAB"). I am President and General Manager of WAJI-FM and WLDE-FM in Fort Wayne, Indiana. I strongly encourage the FCC to move quickly to authorize radio broadcasters to upgrade to DAB using In-Band On-Channel ("IBOC") technology.

Radio broadcasting remains a part of everyday life for millions of Americans. It is a primary means of disseminating news, information, entertainment and emergency information. We believe IBOC DAB is an important part of radio's future, and asks the FCC help ensure the continued success of this service.

USA Digital Radio's IBOC DAB system will provide both increased audio fidelity and enhanced radio broadcasts. This will allow radio broadcasters to overcome many of the limitations of current AM and FM broadcasting, to meet higher listener expectations and provide new services to listeners. IBOC DAB is able to accomplish this without disrupting existing analog service and without the need for listeners to change the way they listen to radio.

The radio industry faces new challenges from high quality pre-recorded music, upcoming satellite-based digital audio services and cable-based and Internet-based audio programming. IBOC DAB will help enhance the ability of terrestrial broadcasters to compete with these new services at the same time it meets the needs of listeners.

For these reasons, we encourage the Commission to take the appropriate regulatory actions to enable the expeditious implementation of USADR's IBOC DAB system in the United States. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Candace A. Wendling
President & General Manager
WAJI-FM & WLDE -FM

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