

"Local" terrestrial radio wants to have its cake and eat it too. How can 'local' radio stations complain about XM, when these very same stations are consolidating 8 stations under one roof, just like XM, taking 90% of their product from satellite connected networks, which is similiar to XM, operating unattended for 50% or more of the week, like XM, and in so many ways, such 'local' stations are doing everything except local programming, just like XM. Furthermore, terrestrial radio has had many many opportunities to be in the position of XM. You, the FCC, offered the direct-satellite-audio spectrum segment to the NAB about 15 yrs ago, and the NAB turned it down. The NAB has turned their noses up at digital modulation, the Internet, RBDS, technical standards and even FCC enforcement. The NAB continues to keep its head in the sand and refuses to admit we have a digital economy. They continue to deceive, dissuade and delude their members about XM. IF the NAB were serious about the future of terrestrial radio, they would seize digital opportunities to compete, rather than complain. XM is doing nothing wrong. They are simply providing a product that the public wants and which terrestrial, especially commercial radio, long ago stopped providing. IF the NAB wants to separate local and national methods of broadcasting, and you put restrictions on XM, then do the same for terrestrial. Force a level playing field. Put BACK the restrictions of main studio rules, local news content, local talent content, limitations of syndication and LMA content that you once had. Require terrestrial stations to have the same level of backup facilities,,, transmitter, electric generator, audio server etc that XM has invested in. Require terrestrial broadcasters to provide the same level of service as XM in the conveyance of quality audio. Give the NAB 90 days to develop a plan for HD Radio migration and a sunset date for analog transmission. Make that a terrestrial requirement to be fulfilled by all NAB members as a stipulation of any restrictions against XM. Eddit Fritts would rather complain than compete. His members would pay Washington lawyers and lobbyists, rather than spend dollars to produce local content. Make the NAB learn to compete and don't let them get away with unjustified complaints. I am a broadcast engineer who has done work for both terrestrial and XM properties, so I do see all sides. I would be glad to assist in a further capacity if so desired. I spend many hours a week on the road, so I have a very good idea of how well XM serves the mobile public and how poorly terrestrial serves the local market. Like the Amex commercial says, when it comes to XM, don't leave home without it. When I am looking at a 3 hour drive to go work on a project on the Eastern Shore, I don't walk out the door and hit Route 50 without my XM Radio. Thank you