

Please reject NAB's petition 04-160 to block satellite radio from providing local traffic/weather information on the grounds that competition is good for the radio environment just as it's good for every other consumer product or service. Satellite radio has returned quality and diversity to radio programming that's been eroding more and more quickly as large owners take over radio stations.

The world of commercial radio has become more and more of a virtual monopoly as large owners suck up local stations and remove all originality and quality programming, not to mention censor valuable differences of opinion by shutting out advertising and voices which come from supposedly "wrong" points of view.

Satellite radio -- which we subscribed to as quickly as possible upon its introduction -- introduces variety, listener choice and COMPETITION to this environment. I am more than willing to pay for over 100 channels of MUSIC of every variety (or talk/comedy if that's what I want) rather than the same 20 songs and intelligence-insulting "talent" on the large corporate-owned stations. Look at it this way: Washington, D.C., a central place for the growth of jazz music in the U.S., has no jazz station! That's because the last one we had was eliminated when it was purchased by a large corporation.

Without the entry of satellite radio, I have no doubt that radio would die an even faster death than it faces now. People are too used to choice in goods and services -- and they are not patient with providers who don't offer it. Since when is the traffic and weather copyrighted or the exclusive domain of one owner? Clear Channel and its ilk do not own this information and they cannot possibly have a legal right to be the only source for public information about it.

NAB has every right to look out for its members -- but they might think about how XM and other satellite providers could benefit their industry and seek out collaboration rather than blocking tactics which only reveal their interest in holding broadcasting in the past rather than moving it toward the future. So should the FCC.

Please do not allow this effort to block competition and choice in radio to move forward in the forum of the FCC.

Sincerely,
Kate Kirkpatrick
Arlington, VA