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Oregon Law Center Farmworker Office
El Centro de Leyes de Oregon para Campesinos FCC - MAILROOM

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May 24, 2004

Commission's Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW, TW-A325
Washington D.C. 20554

Re: Amendment of Section 73.202(b)
Table of Allotments
FM Broadcast Stations
MB Docket No. 04-124 (Dallas, Oregon)
Comments in Support of Notice of Proposed Rule Making

To the Federal Communications Commission:

This is a letter in support of the reservation for non-commercial use of Channel 252C3 at Dallas, Oregon. This also serves as a letter of support for Radio Bilingue's application for use of Reserve Channel 252C3 in Dallas, Oregon for non-commercial use.

The Oregon Law Center is a non-profit legal services office that provides a full range of free legal services to low-income populations in Oregon, with particular emphasis on communities that would otherwise be excluded from access to the legal system. From its inception, OLC has provided services to Oregon's farmworkers through its Farmworker Program, directed by Nargess Shadbeh. The Farmworker Program provides legal services to the over 174,000 migrant and seasonal farmworkers who live and work in Oregon.

About 30-40% of the farmworkers in Oregon are indigenous Mexican and Central Americans. They speak languages other than Spanish as their first language. The Oregon Law Center established an Indigenous Farmworker Project in 2001 (coordinated by Julie Samples) to address the needs of non-Spanish and non-English speaking farmworkers. Through this project, the Oregon Law Center has collaborated with Radio Bilingue.

We write this letter on behalf of a group of six indigenous migrant workers living in Woodburn, Oregon, a city located near Dallas, Oregon. They asked us to support the reservation of the channel, as well as the application of Radio Bilingue.

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Radio Bilingue is the only station in the United States that has a weekly program Mixteco, an indigenous language spoken in Oaxaca, Puebla and Guerrero, Mexico. About 75% of the indigenous workers in Oregon speak Mixteco as their first language. Hugo Morales, the Executive Director of Radio Bilingue, has helped develop goals for the Indigenous Farmworker Project's radio announcements in Oregon, California and Oaxaca, and has participated in radio shows in Woodburn (KWBY) and Dallas (KWIP), Oregon, to help connect with a community that has not traditionally received information about available resources. While radio announcements and shows are invaluable tools, no radio station in Oregon has the capacity to allow us to do live, weekly shows in Mixteco, nor do any of the existing non-commercial radio stations in Oregon.

If Radio Bilingue were granted the use of Reserve Channel 252C3 in Dallas, Oregon, we would be able to provide information to the growing indigenous population, as well as the Spanish-speaking population in Oregon. The indigenous Mexican and Central American populations would benefit tremendously from Radio Bilingue's presence in Oregon, as they have in California, where Radio Bilingue is based.

At a community meeting, we solicited comments from indigenous workers regarding Radio Bilingue and its potential existence in Oregon. All supported this application. They all agreed that Radio Bilingue supports and promotes indigenous cultures, and provides important health and safety information, information about jobs, and community resources. One worker stated that Radio Bilingue follows the migrants—from Baja California to California, and now that indigenous workers are a strong presence in Oregon, the workers would like Radio Bilingue to provide programming in Oregon. The workers also noted that Radio Bilingue provides them a chance to express themselves in their native languages, and helps them learn of important community events. Most indigenous workers in Oregon are illiterate in Spanish, and in their own languages (most indigenous languages do not have a common written form) and often the radio is the only way they receive information, other than personal conversations. It was clear from the meeting that the indigenous workers thought it was important that Radio Bilingue's application be approved.

Dallas, Oregon, is an essential area from which the radio station would be based. Dallas is located in Polk County, Oregon, close to Salem, Woodburn, Forest Grove, and the rest of the Willamette Valley. The bulk of Oregon's farmworkers, and the indigenous Mexican and Central Americans populations, live in the Willamette Valley. It is imperative that information in Spanish and indigenous languages can be heard by the largest possible numbers, and a station located in Dallas would aid in that effort.

Oregon is in need of a non-commercial radio station that provides programming in Spanish and indigenous languages. Please reserve the use of Reserve Channel 252C3 for non-commercial use, and authorize Radio Bilingue to build a station.

If you have any questions, please contact Nargess Shadbeh at (503) 295-2760, ext. 128 or Julie Samples at (503) 981-0336.

Sincerely,

Julie Samples for Nargess Shadbeh

Nargess Shadbeh
Attorney and Director,
Farmworker Program
Oregon Law Center

Julie Samples

Julie Samples
Attorney and Coordinator,
Indigenous Farmworker Project
Oregon Law Center

Certificate of Service

I, Julie R. Samples, hereby certify that I have caused to be served, this 24th day of May, 2004, a copy of the foregoing "Comments in Support of Notice of Proposed Rule Making" by First Class Mail, fees prepaid, on the following:

William J. Byrnes, Esq.
c/o Radio Bilingue, Inc.
7921 Old Falls Road
McLean, VA 22102

Betty McArdle, Vice-President/Treasurer
Northwest Community Radio Project
3740 SW Comus Street
Portland, Oregon 97219

Donald E. Martin, Esq.
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Julie R. Samples

Certificate of Service

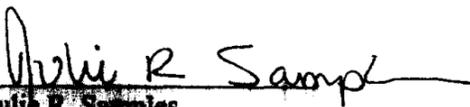
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