



# CLEAR CHANNEL LOS ANGELES

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June 21, 2004

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St., S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20445

Re: **Docket Number MD Docket No. 04-160**

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am sending this letter to support the National Association of Broadcasters & the petition they filed on April 14, 2004 seeking a Declaratory Ruling on satellite radio's broadcasting of local weather and traffic, and future plans to expand their reach into local radio markets.

I would like to voice my concern as to why the XM Radio Inc. & Sirius Satellite Radio Inc. would have a negative impact on the community:

- Satellite Radio is NOT free programming like local radio. The consumer has to pay a monthly service fee for service. Satellite Radio is taking away from the local community by charging the consumer for the service whereas local radio provides free access to programming and is chartered to give to the community in several different ways (see below).
- XM currently has 1.7 million subscribers who pay \$9.95/month.
- Sirius currently has 261,000 subscribers who pay \$12.95/month.
- Satellite radio is NOT accessible to the general public and therefore is **NOT** controlled by the FCC.

There are several reasons why local radio stations are necessary and essential to the local community.

- Radio localism provides an economic base that supports the community
  - Employment
  - Local Taxes
  - Local infrastructure

- Local radio stations raise millions of dollars for various campaigns such as Breast Cancer, Toys for Tots, KOST Guard Campaign/Water Safety for Toddlers, Emergency Relief Funds, Disaster Fund (Clear Channel raised in excess of 1 million dollars for our country's service men & women in 2003).
- Local radio stations provide the people in the community with local information & news instantly.
- People of the community actively participate in contests that benefit the local community (cash, cars, prizes, tickets, etc.).
- Programming is free (advertisers pay for advertising).

Local radio stations benefit the community in a very big way. The local radio stations are the backbone of the local community. We as a community depend upon the support of the local radio station to help direct the community in several different directions.

In granting licenses for satellite radio, XM and Sirius both assured the FCC that their service would be national only. By launching local traffic and weather, XM and Sirius broke their promise. As part of an industry that is licensed by the Federal Communications Commission, local radio stations have a responsibility to serve the local community. The satellite providers have no such responsibility, but serve to gain financially by broadcasting local content in direct conflict with the agreement in which they were granted an FCC license.

I support the NAB's petition and ask that the FCC stand by their vow to protect "vibrant" local broadcasting, and immediately take the necessary action to safeguard the important service that radio provides.

Sincerely,

Greg Ashlock  
Regional Vice President