I write in regard to the need for WPVM FM in Asheville NC to provide a strong signal to the immediate community without undue interference.

WPVM currently suffers considerable interference from WIMZ, a commercial station broadcasting out of Knoxville TN. Although WPVM consistently provides locally relevant programming as well as airtime to regional musicians, WIMZ offers little but overplayed oldies and annoying commercials. It's truly a shame that we have to endure this hijacking of our local airwaves by a radio station 120 miles away.

It has come to my attention, however, that the FCC has the authority to help alleviate this problem. The rugged nature of the surrounding mountains in Ashville presents challenges not otherwise encountered by radio stations in less vertical terrain. Homes in this area are frequently surrounded by steep hillsides which prevent those who of us who want to listen to WPVM from receiving a clear signal.

First of all, we need contour protection to prevent WIMZ's signal from reaching the Asheville area along the French Broad River. Although WPVM is currently provided with distance protection, this technology is useless due to the particular features of our mountain terrain.

For some bureaucratic reason, WPVM is also currently prevented from owning translators. Those of us who live in and commute to and from Asheville would greatly appreciate it if this prohibition were lifted. As it now stands, listening to WPVM in the car is often frustrating, and many geographical areas fail completely to receive a signal.

Technology has furthermore developed to the point where third adjacent channel spacing is unnecessary. We believe that eliminating this outdated regulation would open up the FM spectrum to low power FM stations and allow WPVM to avoid the interference from WIMZ.

Thank you very much for your time and consideration of this issue.

I hope you will please additionally allow an increase in the number of low power FM radio stations and strengthen the viability of those stations which are already in operation.

Sincerely,
Stephen Kirbach