

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of)
)
Petition for Rulemaking of the) RM-11338
National Association of Broadcasters) MB Docket No. _____
to Permit AM Radio Stations' Use of)
FM Translators)

To: Office of Secretary
The Chief, Media Bureau

**COMMENTS OF ASTRO-TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION
IN SUPPORT OF NAB PETITION**

Astro-Telecommunications Corporation, the licensee of Station WADK(AM), Newport, Rhode Island ("WADK"), by its attorney, hereby submits its Comments in support of the Petition for Rulemaking filed July 14, 2006 by the National Association of Broadcasters ("NAB"). The NAB Petition requests the Commission to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to amend its rules to allow AM broadcast stations to operate FM translator stations. On July 25, 2006, the FCC released a Public Notice stating that interested persons may file statements opposing or supporting the NAB Petition within thirty days. These Comments are timely filed in response to the Public Notice.

WADK is a daytime-only station which operates on the frequency 1540 kHz at Newport, Rhode Island with 1 kW. If WADK were able to use an FM translator, it could better serve its listeners in a number of respects. First, the station could provide better coverage of weather and emergency events. Many Newport County residents, and the City Council, have requested WADK to provide extended service when it comes to hurricane coverage, but the station has been unable to do so because of the terms of its license. 24 hour coverage is crucial in this day and age to provide listeners with the emergency coverage they need and desire.

WADK is also well known for its coverage of local sports and has an award-winning sports department. However, the station is currently precluded from covering a number of evening sports events. In particular, WADK is unable to cover football games that occur in the evening. Many of the station's listeners have requested that we air local football games.

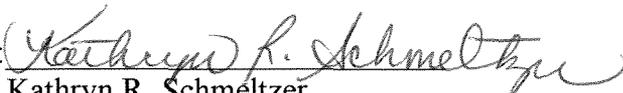
Providing full coverage of police and fire emergencies has also posed a problem for WADK. On numerous occasions, the station has had to cut off reporting on traffic tie-ups, accidents and fires, etc. due to its sign-off times, particularly in winter months, leaving listeners hanging.

The station would also like to provide nighttime coverage of government functions and elections. WADK is often asked to cover live important meetings such as council or special meetings and would also like to be able to cover the election process as it occurs. Because it is a daytime-only station, WADK is unable to cover nighttime governmental functions and is forced to report election results in its morning news the morning after the election.

The NAB Petition presents an avenue for improving WADK's performance without substantial cost. For the reasons set forth above, WADK urges the Commission to initiate a rulemaking proceeding to amend the rules as requested by the NAB to permit AM stations to operate FM translators.

Respectfully submitted,

**ASTRO TELE-COMMUNICATIONS
CORPORATION**

By: 
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Dated: August 24, 2006

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Cherie L. Mills, a secretary with the law firm of Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman LLP, hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing "COMMENTS OF ASTRO-TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION IN SUPPORT OF NAB PETITION" was served via U.S. mail on this 24th day of August 2006, to the following:

Marsha J. MacBride
Jane E. Mago
Jerianne Timmerman
Lawrence A. Walke
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Cherie L. Mills