

## **VIRGINIA'S PUBLIC RADIO STATIONS**

June 20, 2008

The Honorable Robert M. McDowell  
Commissioner  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Commissioner McDowell:

On behalf of Virginia's Public Radio Stations, we are writing to express our concerns about the proposed merger of XM Satellite Radio (XM) and Sirius Satellite Radio (Sirius). The public radio community remains steadfast in its opposition to the proposed XM-Sirius merger. However, if the merger is to proceed, then we urge the Federal Communications Commission to condition it by requiring the merged entity to incorporate HD Radio technology in all new satellite radio receivers.

Each week, more than 900,000 citizens in the Commonwealth of Virginia listen to public radio. We oppose the merger between XM and Sirius on the grounds that a combined satellite radio provider would substantially harm the public interest by creating a monopoly satellite radio provider. We fear that a merged satellite company could leverage its business relationships with companies dominating the satellite receiver distribution and retail channel to frustrate the rollout of terrestrial digital radio receivers.

Public radio stations have been on the forefront of developing the digital broadcasting standard. Today, more than 380 public radio stations are broadcasting in digital and 300 more stations will soon be on the air. Virginia's public radio stations are leaders in digital broadcasting, with nearly all of Virginia's public radio stations broadcasting in digital or in the process of transitioning. Our investments, with considerable help from Congress, total millions of dollars in this next generation of broadcasting. A merger condition requiring the inclusion of HD Radio technology in all new satellite receivers would ensure a competitive market for digital terrestrial broadcasting, while preventing monopolistic market forces from squeezing out this growing service.

Your interest in promoting competition while fostering innovation should remain at the forefront of this critical decision-making process. We urge your continued support in working with your colleagues at the FCC to promote and preserve the public interest in the historic proceeding by urging the inclusion of HD Radio

technology in all new satellite radio receivers. The citizens of the Commonwealth of Virginia deserve to continue reaping the benefits of public radio. With your support, terrestrial broadcasting can remain healthy and vibrant for years to come.

Sincerely,

**Glenn Gleixner**

General Manager  
WVTF-FM (Roanoke)  
WFFC-FM (Ferrum)  
WISE-FM (Roanoke)  
WLUR-FM (Lexington)  
WVTR-FM (Marion)  
WVTU-FM (Charlottesville)  
WVTW-FM (Charlottesville)  
WWVT-FM (Christiansburg)

**Tom DuVal**

General Manager  
WMRA-FM (Harrisonburg)  
WEMC-FM (Harrisonburg)  
WMLU-FM (Farmville)  
WMRL-FM (Lexington)  
WMRY-FM (Charlottesville)

**William Miller**

Vice President and General Manager  
WCVE-FM (Richmond)  
WMVE-FM (Heathsville)  
WCNV-FM (Chase City)

**Heather F. Mazzoni**

Program Director  
WHRV-FM (Norfolk)  
WHRO-FM (Norfolk)

**Dan DeVany**

Vice President & General Manager  
of Radio  
WETA-FM (Arlington)  
WGMS-FM (Hagerstown, MD)

cc: Ms. Marlene Dortch (for inclusion in MB Docket 07-57)