

## United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

September 15, 2009

The Honorable Julius Genachowski  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 - 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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*2/uncensored Broadcasting*  
*PV*  
*JG*  
*1515*

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to call your attention to the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) current investigation of an unlicensed radio station operating in or near Boston, Massachusetts. This station has recently been broadcasting on 97.5 FM, a frequency licensed to New Hampshire-based WOKQ.

WOKQ is legally licensed to operate on the 97.5 FM frequency in the Boston-Manchester Designated Marketing Area (DMA). Several months ago, the unlicensed radio station in question began broadcasting on that frequency, often disrupting or completely blocking WOKQ's signal.

I was pleased to see that the FCC's Boston Field Office issued a Notification of Apparent Liability and threatened significant fines to the unlicensed station, which resulted in the station temporarily shutting down its operation. However, my constituents have informed me that the unlicensed station has resumed its illegal transmission and that its signal continues to disrupt the licensed broadcast signal of WOKQ. The FCC's Boston Field Office has since opened an investigation into the unlicensed station and its operators, which will be necessary to take the appropriate enforcement action to remove the station from the airwaves.

I urge you to make this investigation a top priority and I request an update on the status of the investigation. WOKQ should have full access to its broadcasting frequency, and the current disruption of its broadcast signal harms both WOKQ and its listeners in New England.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senator



OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

November 16, 2009

The Honorable Jeanne Shaheen  
United States Senate  
520 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Shaheen:

Thank you for your September 15, 2009 letter regarding the status of the investigation into an unlicensed radio station in Boston, Massachusetts, operating on 97.5 MHz and interfering with FM radio station WOKQ, Dover, New Hampshire, which operates on that same frequency.

When the interference first was reported to the Commission's Boston Field Office, FCC agents monitored 97.5 MHz and, using mobile direction finding equipment, determined that the unlicensed operation was located in a building at One Westinghouse Plaza in Hyde Park, Massachusetts. The Boston Office issued Notices of Unlicensed Operation on July 20, 2009, to the building's landlord and to one of the apparent operators of the station. After issuance of the Notices, the station went off the air.

The Boston Office subsequently received a report that the station was back on the air. Agents again monitored 97.5 MHz and determined that the unlicensed station was now operating from a residential home in Dorchester, Massachusetts. Notices of Unlicensed Operation were issued to the homeowner and another apparent station operator on September 3, 2009. The owner of the home reported to agents that, as of September 3, 2009, the station was off the air.

Agents in the Boston Office will follow up as soon as possible to determine whether the station has resumed operations since the apparent cessation of operations on September 3, 2009. Please be assured that this investigation will remain a top priority and all necessary enforcement action will be pursued if the station has in fact resumed operations.

I appreciate your notifying me of your concern about this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski".

Julius Genachowski  
Chairman