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April 15, 2011

Via ECFS

Marlene H. Dortch, Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Travelers Information Service
PS Docket No. 09-19
Ex Parte Presentation

Dear Ms. Dortch:

Attached is an Ex Parte Notice in the above-referenced rulemaking proceeding pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules.

Should there be any questions, please contact the undersigned.

Sincerely,

Howard M. Weiss
Counsel for
American Association of
Information Radio Operators

HMW/eo
Enclosures

cc: Via Electronic Mail w/encls.
David Furth, Esquire
Zenji Nakazawa, Esquire
Eric Ehrenreich, Esquire
Aaron Garza, Esquire
Uche Patrick, Esquire
Mr. Thomas Eng

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMUNICATION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of)	
)	
Travelers Information Stations)	PS Docket No. 09-19
)	
American Association of Information Radio Operators Petition for Ruling on Travelers' Information Station Rules;)	
)	
Highway Information Systems, Inc. Petition for Rulemaking;)	RM-11514
)	
American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials Petition for Rulemaking)	RM-11531
)	

To: Secretary, Federal Communications Commission

EX PARTE NOTICE

Pursuant to Section 1.1206(b) of the Commission's rules, this notice is respectfully submitted to place in the record of the above-captioned proceeding notification of a meeting with Commission staff and the presentation at that meeting of a written submission summarizing the position of our client (copy attached), American Association of Information Radio Operators ("AAIRO"). The meeting was held on April 14, 2011, at the offices of the Commission with the following persons present, either in person or telephonically:

Frank R. Jazzo, counsel to AAIRO
Howard M. Weiss, counsel to AAIRO
William Baker, President of AAIRO
David Furth, FCC
Zenji Nakazawa, FCC
Eric Ehrenreich, FCC
Aaron Garza, FCC
Uche Patrick, FCC
Thomas Eng, FCC

The topic of the presentation was the proposals made in AAIRO's comments, dated February 18, 2011, and reply comments, dated March 7, 2011. AAIRO's representatives discussed and responded to questions concerning its position that the Commission should clarify and/or expand the permissible content of broadcasts by Travelers Information Stations ("TIS") under Section 90.242(a)(7) to include, *inter alia*, routine and emergency National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration ("NOAA") weather reports and forecasts, AMBER and Silver Alerts, and various other traveler-related messages, warnings and reports. AAIRO also advocated the removal of the filtering requirement on TIS stations in §90.242(b)(8) of the rules and the allowance of "ribboning" or networking of TIS stations.

Respectfully submitted,



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April 15, 2011

Meeting - April 14, 2011

The American Association of Information Radio Operators (AAIRO) proposes a new definition of permissible content for Travelers Information Stations (TIS), amending §90.242(a)(7) of the rules:

Any message concerning the safety of life or protection of property that may affect any travelers or any individuals in transit or soon to be in transit at the discretion of the officials authorized to operate such stations.

This definition is intended to broaden or clarify §242 to include National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), National Weather Service (NWS) weather reports and forecasts, Amber and Silver Alerts, critical public health warnings, terrorist threat levels and other civil defense notices. An itemized list of such content is found at page 13 of AAIRO's comments.

The bases of this proposal are as follows:

- Routine NOAA reports critical to travelers' safety and property.
- NOAA reports or equivalent not readily available, especially in emergencies, on other transmission systems, e.g., cellular, Internet, broadcast, NOAA frequency.
- NOAA encourages redundancy as do other government agencies and emergency managers.
- NOAA and other types of content warranted by changes in society, numbers of cars on the road, new roads, increased driving, more national security and weather events.
- NOAA "All Hazards" Alerts critical to travelers.
- Definition of "emergency" not clearly delineated; should be defined by local

emergency manager, not federal agency, consistent with TIS purposes and basic principles of emergency management.

- Broadcast of NOAA reports and other similar content would not dilute TIS message or provide superfluous information.

TIS should also be able to broadcast America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response (Amber) and Silver Alerts. These messages have proven to be extremely important in locating lost or kidnapped children and seniors and their broadcast on TIS station would enlist travelers' aid in accomplishing the goals of the programs.

The Commission should remove the requirement in the rules at § 90.243(b)(8) of filtering the TIS stations signal. This would enhance the TIS signal without interference to AM stations.

The Commission should allow "ribboning" or networking of TIS stations to enhance TIS performance in evacuation situations, to aid commuters, and to accommodate the need of travelers headed along a highway or highways towards a common destination.