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PEPIN COUNTY
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES

Paula R. Ashbeck, Director

Adult Services
Child Support
Economic Support
Children & Family Services
Juvenile Justice
Behavioral Health
Aging & Disability Resource Ctr.

December 27, 2013

Commission Secretary
Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

Dear Commission Secretary:

In the matter of revitalization of the AM Radio Service: MB Docket NO. 13-249

This is a comment regarding the NPRM #13-249 regarding the "Revitalization of the AM Radio Service." This comment is from the Pepin County Department of Human Services and in support of Brian and Karla Winnekins, owners of WRDN-1430 AM in Durand, WI.

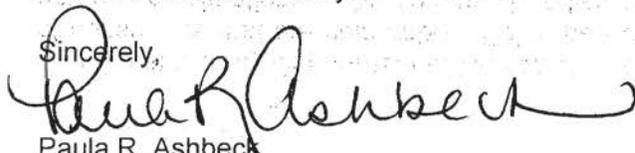
The Pepin County Department of Human Services is a rural service provider for special populations of consumers that are vulnerable. Being part of a rural community is challenging when faced with emergency situations. The community relies on voluntary organizations such as fire fighters and EMT's. The county has two towns in its jurisdiction with most of the population base being in the rural/county areas. The individuals in these areas rely solely on communication from the local service provider of their radio station, WRDN-1430, as we have no local television stations. If the residents of our community lose their local radio service, we have no way of informing vulnerable citizens (aging, disabled, children with special needs, foster children, individuals residing in poverty) of emergency situations and how to protect and care for their needs.

As the Department Director, it is imperative that you understand the impact of repealing the ratchet rule, allowing stations like WRDN to raise their night time power. WRDN is committed to serving the public in our rural community, as service that is desperately needed.

If the ratchet rule repeal cannot help stations such as WRDN, then I would express to you the importance of a proposal that would allow a FM translator. In this case, the residents would be able to receive the station at night without the interference and will have local radio coverage and the public service that the FCC is wanting.

Thank you for taking time to consider the request of the vulnerable citizens that it is this department's duty to advocate for. They are not able to speak for themselves, but rather depend on the department to provide for their needs in circumstances that place them at risk. The department is obligated to serve residents that are impacted by emergency situations. We are not able to serve them or to warn them without the proper communication tools, such as a local radio station that is so vital to a rural community.

Sincerely,


Paula R. Ashbeck
Director

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"The Pepin County Department of Human Services works with people to help themselves improve their life and community by promoting safe, healthy decisions to achieve personal and economic stability."