

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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unlicensed Broadcasting
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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