

BART STUPAK
1ST DISTRICT, MICHIGAN

2268 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-2201

PHONE: (202) 225-4735
FAX: (202) 225-4744

<http://www.house.gov/stupak>
(Email through Website)

SCOTT SCHLOEGEL—CHIEF OF STAFF
TOM BALDINI—DISTRICT DIRECTOR

4 OCT 2010 RCVD



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-2201

COMMITTEE:
ENERGY AND COMMERCE

SUBCOMMITTEES:
OVERSIGHT AND INVESTIGATIONS
CHAIRMAN
COMMUNICATIONS, TECHNOLOGY AND THE INTERNET
COMMERCE, TRADE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

CAUCUS LEADERSHIPS:
LAW ENFORCEMENT CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
NORTHERN BORDER CAUCUS, CO-CHAIR
RURAL CAUCUS

September 29, 2010

The Honorable Julius Genachowski
Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Chairman
445 12th Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

MB
License
1565

Dear Chairman Genachowski:

I am writing to thank the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for the work that has already been done to process and grant WMKT-AM radio station's application to rebroadcast on FM Translator W221BQ Petoskey, Michigan (File number BSTA-20080220ABX), as well as to urge that WMKT be granted permission to move a translator location from Alpena to East Jordan, Michigan in one hop.

In 2007, the FCC granted WMKT's co-channel, Detroit radio station WXYT-AM (1270 AM) permission to change their tower site location and increase their signal strength during both daytime and nighttime broadcasting. As a result, WMKT's signal was severely and negatively impacted. FCC Detroit Field Office verified the damage by stating that in granting the license to WXYT, WMKT may have been the victim of an unpredictable phenomenon causing interference during their critical broadcasting hours.

In order to replicate the nighttime coverage WMKT charted before experiencing interference problems, in June of 2008, the FCC granted WMKT-AM permission to purchase two translators, one of which to be used immediately. Since that time, WMKT has found, purchased, and prepared to use the second translator. However, to ensure the station regains its original nighttime coverage, it is necessary that a newly purchased translator be moved from Alpena to East Jordan, Michigan.

Following FCC protocol, WMKT must apply for and receive permission to move a translator the maximum allowable distance of about ten miles per hop. Due to the significant distance between Alpena and East Jordan, it would take WMKT multiple applications, multiple hops, and a total of two years before use of the mentioned translator is possible. WMKT offers an exceptional service providing news, public safety information, weather updates, election coverage, and other essential local programming to northern Michigan residents.

PLEASE REPLY TO:

- | | | | | | | |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 616 SHELDON HOUGHTON, MI 49931 (906) 482-1371 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 SOUTH 6TH STREET SUITE 3 CRYSTAL FALLS, MI 49920 (906) 875-3751 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1229 WEST WASHINGTON MARQUETTE, MI 49855 (906) 228-3700 | <input type="checkbox"/> 902 LUDINGTON STREET ESCANABA, MI 49829 (906) 786-4504 | <input type="checkbox"/> 200 DIVISION STREET PETOSKEY, MI 49770 (231) 348-0657 | <input type="checkbox"/> 111 EAST CHISHOLM ALPENA, MI 49707 (989) 356-0690 | <input type="checkbox"/> 575 COURT STREET WEST BRANCH, MI 48661 (989) 345-2258 |
|--|---|--|---|--|--|--|


DISTRICT TOLL FREE: 800-950-REP1 (7371)

PRINTED ON RECYCLED PAPER

A two year delay in the full recovery of WMKT nighttime coverage is detrimental to the livelihood of the radio station, and ultimately deprives local citizens an important service. I urge you to look at WMKT's predicament as a unique situation, deserving of unique treatment. Granting WMKT permission to move translator locations in one hop will allow the radio station to thrive, ensuring that local programming reaches their public domain.

I thank you again for the work you have already done to remedy this problem, and look forward to continue working with you until the issue is resolved.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart Stupak". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "B".

BART STUPAK
Member of Congress

BTS/ mm