



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI  
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Albio Sires  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2342 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Sires:

Thank you for your letter supporting the expansion of the role of travelers information stations (TIS) to include the broadcast of Amber alerts, public health warnings, terror threat levels, weather reports, and other helpful information. This is an important issue and I appreciate your contribution to the discussion.

As you may know, in December, the Commission adopted an Order and Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) that seeks public comment on whether the role of travelers information stations (TIS) should be expanded in the manner you suggest. The Order and NPRM comes as a direct result from petitions filed by the Highway Information Systems, Inc. (HIS), the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), and the American Association of Information Radio Operators (AAIRO). That order requested that the FCC expand the role of TIS nationwide by allowing regional broadcasts of more types of potential life-saving emergency information to travelers.

Generally, the Order and NPRM seeks public comment on whether the FCC should significantly expand the scope of permitted communications and alerts by local governments on TIS stations and what limits if, in any, should be placed on those noncommercial messages. The FCC is also seeking comment on whether TIS power limits should be modified to reach a larger listening audience in their coverage area and to what extent TIS broadcast locations should be expanded without resulting in harmful interference to the communications of other licensed broadcasters.

The comment cycle on this matter concluded in March and the Commission's staff is currently reviewing the record. We are committed to working through these issues expeditiously as we consider these proposed changes to Commission policy and rules governing TIS.

I welcome your continued interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,



Julius Genachowski