



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

June 14, 2011

JULIUS GENACHOWSKI
CHAIRMAN

The Honorable Lynn Woolsey
U.S. House of Representatives
2263 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Woolsey:

Thank you for your letter regarding the status of an application to establish new FM translator service in Lagunitas, California that was submitted to the Commission by West Marin Community Radio, Inc. (West Marin).

As you may know, FM translator stations use the same broadcast spectrum as low power FM (LPFM) and full power FM stations, and there is strong demand for the use of the limited number of frequencies that are dedicated to these services. In 2005, following the large number of FM translator applications submitted during a 2003 filing window, the Commission instituted a freeze on the processing of applications for new FM translator construction permits so that it could consider policies to harmonize the licensing procedures for LPFM stations and FM translators.

In line with this effort, Congress recently enacted the Local Community Radio Act of 2010 (LCRA), which establishes criteria the Commission must consider when licensing stations in the FM translator and LPFM services. The Commission will commence a rulemaking proceeding in the near future to implement the requirements of the LCRA, including policies governing the processing of FM translator applications. Upon completion of this proceeding, the Media Bureau will be in a position to resume the processing of pending FM translator applications, such as the one filed by West Marin.

I appreciate learning your concerns on this important matter. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julius Genachowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Julius Genachowski