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FCC Mail Room

March 7, 2014

Tom Wheeler
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler:

I am contacting you today regarding a matter of great importance to me and my constituents. It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) recently issued a notice of dismissal for Hudson County, New Jersey concerning a waiver request to increase the wattage on their Traveler Information Station (TIS). Specifically, the County is seeking to increase the wattage of the local TIS radio station from 10 to 100 watts.

I have been informed that there appears to be no protocol in place for which the County can work with the FCC to increase the size of the station in the future in order to enhance the amount of information transmitted to residents. Being one of the most densely populated and travelled through parts of the country, Hudson County is seeking to increase their reach to residents during times of catastrophic events. Right now the station only reaches 10 percent of the population and, as evident during Superstorm Sandy, when power outages occur for days, residents and travelers look to the local TIS for emergency information. We are concerned that without the ability to reach a wider audience, many residents and travelers will be unprepared during times of disaster.

We respectfully encourage the FCC to work with Hudson County to ensure that the local TIS are able to reach the appropriate audience to guarantee the safety of the public during times of disaster. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Donald M. Payne, Jr.
Member of Congress