



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action.  
See MCI v. FCC, 515 F.2d 385 (D.C. Cir. 1974).

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## **STATEMENT OF FCC COMMISSIONER MIGNON L. CLYBURN ON AM REVITALIZATION PROCEEDING**

While it is not my practice to speak publicly about matters on circulation at the Commission, the tone and substance of the discussions surrounding the AM Revitalization Window item proposed during my tenure as interim chair are both incendiary and misleading.

I believed then – as I do today – that AM radio plays a significant role in our media landscape, contributing to the diversity of voices and ownership that are vital to the functioning of our economy and our democracy. At that time, I expressed appreciation – as I do again now – for the support of an AM station in South Carolina that helped to buoy my professional career. At that time, I acknowledged the challenges, notably interference with station signals and standards, related to community coverage that made it difficult for station owners to survive and thrive. And at that time, I acknowledged the steps that the Commission had taken during my tenure to provide relief to AM broadcasters, including our efforts designed to increase the number of FM translators by more than 25%.

Today, I am proud that these efforts have seen some success. Not only has the number of FM translators increased, our data indicates that we will likely see this number continue to grow as more translator permits are awarded from the Auction 83 filing window. At the same time, because of our proximity to the upcoming spectrum auction, I recognize that my proposal -- to open an AM only window for broadcasters to receive one new FM translator -- would not provide timely relief to AM broadcasters, particularly small and low-power AM broadcasters, who would have to wait until 2017 to take advantage of this relief.

While I remain convinced that opening an AM only window for broadcasters to receive one new FM translator is sound policy, revisiting this proposal closer to the time of the Incentive Auction, would make this relief effective. I carefully considered Chairman Wheeler's proposal to provide immediate relief to AM broadcasters through a 250 mile waiver, and believe that it would increase the availability of translators for AM broadcasters. The waiver window would open first to Class C and D stations – those that are smallest and in most urgent need of relief – and would include outreach and technical assistance to ensure that these often resource-challenged broadcasters are able to successfully complete their applications. After that initial C and D-only window, we would extend the waiver window to Class A and B stations.

This good result does not – I repeat – does not foreclose the possibility of opening an AM only translator window in the near future. I hope that in this case, as in all matters before us requiring compromise, advocates and my colleagues will not allow the perfect to be the enemy of the good. For the more than 4,500 AM broadcasters that stand to benefit from this opportunity, time is of the essence. So I urge my colleagues to offer relief to these broadcasters at the earliest possible date.

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