

DAVID N. CICILLINE
1ST DISTRICT, RHODE ISLAND

2244 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4911
(202) 225-3290 (FAX)

1070 MAIN STREET, SUITE 300
PAWTUCKET, RI 02860
(401) 729-5600
(401) 729-5608 (FAX)



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

CO-CHAIR, DEMOCRATIC POLICY AND
COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

RANKING MEMBER, SUBCOMMITTEE ON
REGULATORY REFORM, COMMERCIAL
AND ANTITRUST LAW

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
IMMIGRATION AND BORDER SECURITY

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON
EUROPE, EURASIA, AND EMERGING THREATS

SUBCOMMITTEE ON MIDDLE EAST
AND NORTH AFRICA

August 9, 2018

629

Ajit Pai, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking – MB Docket. 18-119/FCC 18-60 published in the Federal Register, Vol. 83, No. 109 on Wednesday, June 6, 2018

Dear Chairman Pai:

I write in regards to the Commission's proposed rule relating to interference caused by FM translators. I have heard concerns from my constituents that the proposed rule may impact small and independent broadcasters. I respectfully request that you take into account the importance of diversity and localism during the consideration of this proposed rule.

Large numbers of Portuguese immigrants settled in the greater New England area during the 1960's, 1970's and 1980's. Due to the high cost of real estate in larger cities and the search for increased work opportunities, the Portuguese community in New England has settled further out along the Massachusetts South Coast and Providence. I am proud to serve Rhode Island's First Congressional District where a vibrant Portuguese community has thrived for generations and which has been made better by the incredible contributions of Portuguese-Americans in arts, academics, politics, business, and culture.

WJFD-FM is a 50,000 watt station which operates in Rhode Island and Massachusetts and enjoys a wide coverage area as far north as New Hampshire and far west as central Connecticut. WJFD provides a unique and valuable contribution because it broadcasts Portuguese news, music and cultural programming and is able to reach communities which are located further out. In addition to broadcasting Portuguese programming, WJFD helps to bring this community together. In particular, WJFD informs its listeners about important cultural events such as The New Bedford "Day of Portugal," The Fall River "Day of Portugal," The Providence "Day of Portugal," the Provincetown "Day of Portugal" and the "Grandes Festas do Divino Espirito Santo da Nova Inglaterra" — one of the biggest Portuguese events in New England. WJFD also provides advertising for specialty grocers, shopkeepers, boutiques and restaurants. For 35 years, the Portuguese diaspora throughout New England has come to rely on WJFD as a link to Portugal, the Azores and Cape Verde.

I have heard concerns that the Commission's proposed rule may negatively affect WJFD's geographic coverage area. As a result, it could jeopardize the ability of WJFD to reach Portuguese communities in my district and throughout New England who have no other access to Portuguese programming. I request that you keep these considerations in mind during the rulemaking process.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Please contact Renuka Nagaraj in my office at Renuka.Nagaraj@mail.house.gov or 202-225-4911, if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,



David N. Cicilline
Member of Congress