

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION WASHINGTON

February 1, 2019

The Honorable Roger Wicker United States Senate 555 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Wicker:

Thank you for your letter regarding the continuing importance of radio broadcasting. Like you, I believe that local radio stations provide essential services to their listeners. That's why the Commission under my leadership has made it a priority to eliminate the regulatory burdens that unnecessarily impede radio broadcasters from serving their communities and competing in the marketplace.

The Commission's notice of inquiry on creating a Class C4 designation for FM broadcasters reflects this approach. As some have advocated, this reform could allow many Class A FM stations to broadcast with increased power—which could be especially important for small, minority-owned stations that currently cannot serve their entire communities. The Media Bureau currently is reviewing the comments collected on the notice of inquiry, and I look forward to working with you and my colleagues to improve the quality of radio service throughout the United States.

Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Ajit V. Pai