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MISSISSIPPI

ARMED SERVICES

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

RULES AND ADMINISTRATION

COMMISSION ON SECURITY
AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

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

Dear Chairman Pai,

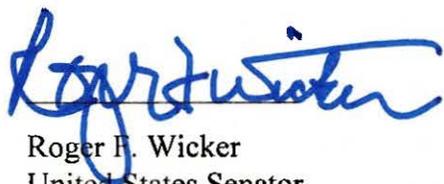
Local radio broadcasters offer a reliable and trusted means of communication for Mississippians and Americans throughout the country. Radio broadcasters deliver essential services to local communities by providing access to real-time information, including news and educational updates, entertainment, emergency alerts, and investigative reporting that helps protect the health and safety of millions of Americans each year.

As you are aware, a majority of terrestrial radio listening occurs in the FM band. I appreciate your recognition of the need to consider modernizing or updating the Commission's rules to help improve the quality of FM service in an evolving media marketplace.

In 2013, SSR Communications Inc. submitted a petition for rulemaking to the Federal Communications Commission to create a new commercial FM class, referred to as the "Class C4 FM allocation." Through this new allocation, a Class C4 FM station would be able to increase its power level from 6,000 to 12,000 watts. This power level increase could allow radio broadcasters to improve their audio quality and provide essential radio broadcast services to more Americans as long as it does not interfere with the service contours of full-service stations or FM translators. It could also help small and rural radio stations, in particular, to enhance their listening areas and better serve the public interest of the surrounding community.

There are potentially hundreds of stations in the United States – including approximately 20 radio stations in Mississippi – that may be eligible for a Class C4 designation, if created. To that end, I welcome the Commission's June Notice of Inquiry to examine proposals for a new FM radio broadcast class. I appreciate your consideration of SSR Communications Inc.'s petition related to the New FM Radio Broadcast Class C4 proceeding in MB Docket No. 18-184 and your efforts to improve the quality of FM service across the country.

Sincerely,



Roger F. Wicker
United States Senator