



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON DC

April 3, 2019

Mike O'Rielly
Commissioner

The Honorable Frank Pallone
The Honorable Yvette D. Clarke
The Honorable Antonio Delgado
The Honorable Eliot L. Engel
The Honorable Adriano Espaillat
The Honorable Josh Gottheimer
The Honorable James A. Himes
The Honorable Hakeem S. Jeffries
The Honorable Peter T. King
The Honorable Nita M. Lowey
The Honorable Carolyn B. Maloney
The Honorable Sean Patrick Maloney
The Honorable Grace Meng
The Honorable Jerrold Nadler
The Honorable Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
The Honorable Bill Pascrell, Jr.
The Honorable Donald M. Payne, Jr.
The Honorable Max Rose
The Honorable José E. Serrano
The Honorable Albio Sires
The Honorable Nydia M. Velázquez

Dear Representatives:


I write to extend my appreciation, especially to Chairman Pallone, for the activities of the House of Representatives to help stop pirate radio operators, including its passage of H.R. 583, the PIRATE Act. Legislation on this matter brings us one step closer to expanding the enforcement tools available to take effective action against many of the nation's pirate radio "stations."

In addition to flagrantly violating federal law, pirate broadcasts undermine and even block the ability of licensed, legal broadcasters to provide vital services such as emergency alerts, critical weather updates, political information, and news, thereby harming the listening public in the greater New York City radio market. In addition to these concerns, illegal use of the airwaves inflicts additional economic harm on legal broadcasters who stand to lose listeners and revenue or suffer interference at the hands of pirate broadcasters. Throughout my tenure at the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), I have spoken out strongly in support of increased enforcement efforts against this illegal use of the airwaves, which is why I am encouraged by passage of H.R. 583.

While the Commission has certainly made strides to improve our enforcement activities against pirate operations, statutory reforms are a key part of adding even more teeth to our efforts. Since your Congressional district is located within or near the most prolific market for pirate radio, I wanted to seek

your direct assistance on the issue. Specifically, I respectfully request that you discourage any of your constituents in the greater New York City radio market from facilitating pirate radio activities in any way, including participating in pirate operations, advertising with such "stations," housing or leasing space to pirate operators, or tuning in to these harmful broadcasts. Finally, I would appreciate any information that you or your staff would be willing to share regarding the location of known pirate operations, which will be swiftly directed to the Commission's Enforcement Bureau for action.

Please do let me know if I can be of assistance in providing more information on the issue of pirate radio or our efforts to end the scourge of pirate radio operators in the greater New York City radio market. Please contact Joel Miller of my staff at Joel.Miller@fcc.gov or (202) 418-2300 if you have any further questions or would like to share information.

Sincerely,


Michael O'Rielly