



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF THE
ACTING CHAIRWOMAN

August 30, 2021

The Honorable G.K. Butterfield
U.S. House of Representatives
2080 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Butterfield:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Federal Communications Commission's pending proceeding that seeks comment on whether to modify our rules to allow FM broadcast stations to use FM booster stations to air geo-targeted content.

I share with you an interest in promoting localism in broadcasting. It is a longstanding part of this agency's public interest assessment and a value we need to continue to support as technology changes. This is especially critical, as you note, for small station owners who often compete for listeners and advertising dollars against station groups with larger market share. Moreover, keeping a diverse group of voices on the air is important because what we hear over the public airwaves says so much about who we are as communities and as a Nation.

The record in this specific proceeding has revealed some concern about technical issues, including whether permitting booster stations to originate geo-targeted content would result in those booster stations causing interference to the primary station they are licensed to rebroadcast, potentially including emergency alerts. In order to better understand these technical concerns, the Media Bureau has granted two stations with experimental authority to test the technology, initially in San Jose, California and subsequently in Jackson, Mississippi. We recently granted an extension of time on the first station due to launch delays, and we expect the results of that testing to be submitted into the record later this year or early next year. Media Bureau staff will take these results into consideration as they review the record developed in the proceeding. Given your interest, I have asked the Bureau staff to place your letter into the record of the proceeding, and to keep your office updated on the testing results.

I hope this is helpful and appreciate your input and look forward to sharing more information as it becomes available. Please let me know if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jessica Rosenworcel", with a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Jessica Rosenworcel



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The Honorable Tony Cardenas
U.S. House of Representatives
2438 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Cardenas:

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I share with you an interest in promoting localism in broadcasting. It is a longstanding part of this agency's public interest assessment and a value we need to continue to support as technology changes. This is especially critical, as you note, for small station owners who often compete for listeners and advertising dollars against station groups with larger market share. Moreover, keeping a diverse group of voices on the air is important because what we hear over the public airwaves says so much about who we are as communities and as a Nation.

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