

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

July 31, 2007

Chairman Kevin Martin
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin

We are concerned that translator licensing could have an unintended impact upon available spectrum for Low Power FM stations. We understand that the FCC may take several actions in the near future that could possibly undermine the availability of spectrum for low power radio and ask that you consider the effects of such actions.

As you know, back in 2000 Congress adopted the Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act which temporarily removed the FCC's authority to issue some low power radio licenses and required the FCC to obtain an independent technical report to confirm the Commission's analysis that low power radio posed no technical threat to existing broadcasting. The technical study was completed and demonstrates clearly that low power radio can be authorized according to the Commission's original plans. As you may know, we have introduced legislation to reinstate the FCC's authority in this matter with the expectation that the Commission will expeditiously authorize new low power radio stations.

However, it has recently come to our attention that in the time since the passage of the Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act, the Commission has initiated actions that could give away the vast majority of spectrum for future low power radio stations. Specifically, the Commission has opened filing windows that will allow another class of radio operation, known as translators or repeaters, to utilize most of the spectrum that would otherwise be available for low power radio stations. As you are aware, translators use equivalent powers, and fit in the same spectrum circumstances as LPFM, but they are distributed through a parallel licensing scheme.

We are concerned that if the Commission continues on its current path with the licensing of translator stations, frequencies may not be available for low power stations.

We urge the Commission to work to ensure that the will of Congress is not accidentally undermined. Thank you for your attention to this important matter.


Mike Doyle
Member of Congress

Sincerely,


Lee Terry
Member of Congress