

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

September 19, 2013

Mignon L. Clyburn  
Acting Chairwoman

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
313 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan:

Thank you for your letter requesting that the Commission initiate a proceeding to examine options for revitalizing the AM broadcast radio service. I appreciate your interest in this matter and am pleased to provide the enclosed on this issue from the Chief of the Media Bureau's Office of Communications and Industry Information.

If you have any additional questions or need further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mignon L. Clyburn".

Mignon L. Clyburn

Enclosure



Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

September 19, 2013

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
CN-1300826

The Honorable Mark Pocan  
U.S. House of Representatives  
313 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Pocan:

Thank you for your letter concerning the AM broadcast radio service. Specifically, you request that the Commission initiate a proceeding to explore options to revitalize the AM radio service. I appreciate the opportunity to respond.

The Commission has long-recognized that AM radio is an important component of the media landscape and often may provide the only broadcast radio service to listeners in rural areas. Yet, as discussed in your correspondence, the ability of the AM band to serve local communities has been affected by channel congestion and interference. It is also true that some AM listeners have shifted to competing services, such as FM broadcasts, satellite radio, personal media players, and Internet-based audio services.

In the past, the Commission has adopted policies designed to improve AM radio service. For example, certain technical standards governing the AM band were revised to reduce interference within AM stations' primary service areas. In addition, the Commission expanded the AM band to accommodate certain broadcasters whose migration to different frequencies within the AM band would significantly decrease congestion and interference. Finally, the Commission modified its rules to allow an AM broadcast station to retransmit its programming over FM translator stations within the AM station's coverage area.

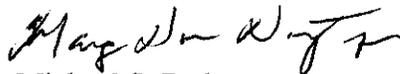
More recently, the Media Bureau has received a number of proposals from individuals and organizations discussing measures to rejuvenate the AM radio service. The proposals, among other things, recommend that AM stations be authorized to operate at higher power levels, provide digital signals, and expand opportunities for AM stations to acquire and use FM translator stations.

Finally, the Media Bureau has drafted a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, which was circulated to the full Commission on September 18, 2013, to solicit public comment regarding additional options to improve service in the AM band. The Bureau looks forward to advancing this proceeding.

Page 2—The Honorable Mark Pocan

I trust this information is helpful, and please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael S. Perko". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial "M".

Michael S. Perko  
Chief, Office of Communications and Industry Information  
Media Bureau