



OFFICE OF
THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON

July 15, 2015

The Honorable Pete Olson
U.S. House of Representatives
312 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Olson:

Thank you for your letter supporting the AM Revitalization Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, including the opening of an AM-only window for FM translators. Your input is very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding.

Commission staff is continuing to review the record in the proceeding and is developing recommendations for the full Commission's consideration. The Commission has proposed, among other things, to have an exclusive filing window for AM stations to apply for FM translator stations and modest modifications to existing technical rules. In evaluating that proposal, the Commission has to determine whether there is still a need to have an exclusive window given the current availability of FM translator licenses. The number of FM translator licenses has grown from 3,800 in 2003 to about 6,300 today. An additional 1,600 new licenses will be issued over the next 12-18 months. We also proposed modest technical changes that would not erode current AM protection standards. However, stakeholders have proposed other thoughtful changes that need to be carefully evaluated to ensure that we are not creating new interference.

As you mention, I referenced my plans to conclude this item in a recent blog post and in the speech I gave at the annual conference for the National Association of Broadcasters this spring. I look forward to putting forth a proposal for my fellow Commissioners to consider in the near term that is based upon the record after careful consideration of all the views expressed, including yours.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler", written over a horizontal line.

Tom Wheeler



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WASHINGTON

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July 15, 2015

The Honorable Gene Green
U.S. House of Representatives
2470 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Green:

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Commission staff is continuing to review the record in the proceeding and is developing recommendations for the full Commission's consideration. The Commission has proposed, among other things, to have an exclusive filing window for AM stations to apply for FM translator stations and modest modifications to existing technical rules. In evaluating that proposal, the Commission has to determine whether there is still a need to have an exclusive window given the current availability of FM translator licenses. The number of FM translator licenses has grown from 3,800 in 2003 to about 6,300 today. An additional 1,600 new licenses will be issued over the next 12-18 months. We also proposed modest technical changes that would not erode current AM protection standards. However, stakeholders have proposed other thoughtful changes that need to be carefully evaluated to ensure that we are not creating new interference.

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