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Committee on Financial Services
Ranking Democratic Member
Subcommittee on Housing
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Committee on Transportation &
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Committee on Ethics



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Michael E. Capuano
7th District, Massachusetts

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*MB
Consumer
Broadcast
Audio
Services*

May 5, 2015

Chairman Tom Wheeler
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Wheeler,

I am writing on behalf of Touch 106.1, a low power radio station in Boston that has been unable to operate fully since April of 2014, when it was required by the FCC to cease broadcasting. Touch 106.1 produces programming for Boston's communities of color, and has truly been an invaluable resource for listeners. The station is currently operating as an internet-only outlet with a wide and devoted following.

Touch 106.1 disseminates a wide variety of information that helps neighbors stay engaged in their community. Some of this programming includes information about school events, local businesses, scholarships, financial resources and cultural happenings. Station staff routinely encourages civic engagement and shares details about local volunteer opportunities. They regularly host local events as a forum for bringing residents together.

We understand and appreciate that obtaining a license is an important operating requirement, as it should be. We are not writing to challenge those requirements. We are simply requesting that the FCC consider making available a temporary or special license, as permitted under Section 309(f) of the Communications Act of 1934 for use in Boston. Touch 106.1 continues to do great work providing a forum for Boston's communities of color. Listeners debate issues impacting their lives, have access to important information and feel connected to their neighbors. It is our hope that Touch 106.1 or a similar local entity would be in a position to utilize this license to serve Boston's communities of color.

We understand that Special Temporary Authority (STA) was granted to a Nevada low-power FM radio station in 2007, after a determination was made that the station, located in Goldfield, provided important information to its community that citizens could not obtain elsewhere. Touch 106.1 provides a similar service in Boston. It enjoys a significant amount of community support and we regularly receive calls from constituents on behalf of the station. It is clear a station like this is filling a communication void.

We are requesting information from the FCC on the requirements in place for the granting of STP. We intend to share this with interested parties, and stand ready to provide assistance in advancing this request. We thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Michael E. Capuano
Michael E. Capuano

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