

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 17, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: RM-11338

Dear Mr. Chairman:

We are writing to support a proposed rule change that will allow radio operators to use FM translators as a fill-in service for AM radio stations. By implementing this rule change, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will benefit the millions of Americans who enjoy listening to AM radio.

Currently, in order for an AM radio to rebroadcast an AM signal on an FM translator it must apply for a waiver of section 74.1201, which prohibits the retransmission of the signal of a standard broadcast station on an FM translator, from the Federal Communications Commission. This requirement must be met before a Special Temporary Authority (STA), authorizing an AM signal to be rebroadcast on an FM translator, can be issued.

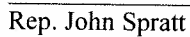
By granting this rule change, the FCC will allow AM broadcasters to overcome the all-too-familiar interference of their signals caused by mountains, buildings, computers, fluorescent lighting and other conditions. The use of an FM translator will also allow AM stations that currently must reduce or turn off power to avoid nighttime interference to deliver a full complement of high-quality service to their audience. AM stations will provide enhanced signal quality, and become better able to compete in the communications marketplace.


Communities and consumers will benefit from improved AM service. Approval of this rule will mean that AM stations unable to broadcast local events that typically occur at night, like political debates and high school sports, will become able to deliver coverage. The four stations to which you have already granted an STA have enhanced their emergency broadcast signals, news and announcements. Also, AM stations that now must reduce or turn off power during night time hours will be able to expand their coverage of traffic and weather conditions during

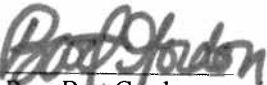
the morning and evening rush hours, a particularly vital service given the extension of Daylight Savings Time by four weeks, which begins this year.

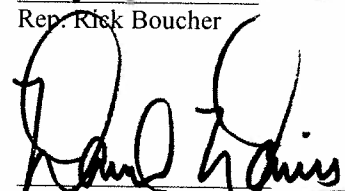
We understand that the proposed rule change remains in the petition for rule-making phase of the FCC's process. For all the reasons we have outlined above, we urge the FCC to advance this proposal to the notice of proposed rule-making phase as soon as possible. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us or Patrick Brennan of Rep. Spratt's staff at (202) 226-2655.

Sincerely,

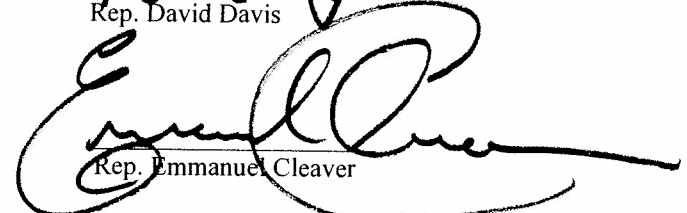

Rep. John Spratt

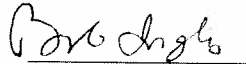

Rep. Rick Boucher

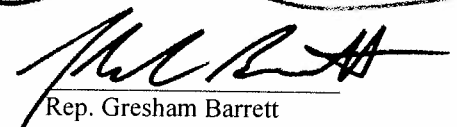

Rep. Bart Gordon



Rep. David Davis

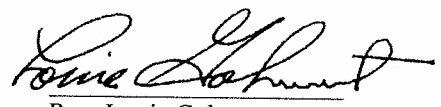

Rep. Ralph Hall

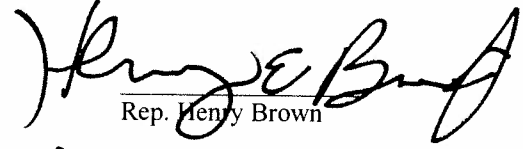

Rep. Emmanuel Cleaver

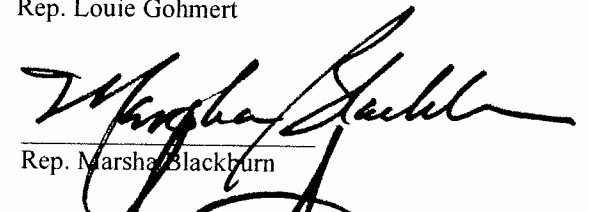

Rep. Bob Inglis



Rep. Gresham Barrett

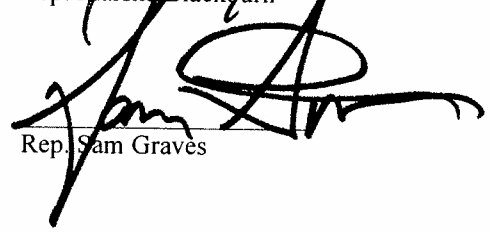

Rep. Joe Wilson



Rep. Louie Gohmert


Rep. Henry Brown


Rep. Marsha Blackburn


Rep. Wally Herger


Rep. Sam Graves


Rep. Barbara Cubin