

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Authorizing Permissive Use of 5G Broadcast)	MB Docket No. 25-168
as a Transmission Standard for Low Power)	
Television Stations)	

**COMMENTS OF
THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BROADCASTERS**

I. INTRODUCTION AND SUMMARY

The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB)¹ submits its comments on the above-captioned Petition for Rulemaking (Petition).² NAB opposes the proposed abandonment of low power television stations' (LPTV) obligations to use currently authorized ATSC 1.0 and ATSC 3.0 transmission standards. The ATSC 3.0 transition is an all-hands-on-deck initiative *critical* to the long-term vitality of broadcast TV, while the Petition is a significant step down the wrong path. In fact, the petitioners do not even seek to provide broadcast TV services. In addition, the petitioner provides no support for its proposition that interference is unlikely – far from the burden it must carry to transition to a standard that creates a potential risk of interference to incumbent services. For all these reasons, we ask the Commission to deny the Petition.

¹ The National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) is the nonprofit trade association that advocates on behalf of free local radio and television stations and broadcast networks before Congress, the Federal Communications Commission and other federal agencies, and the courts.

² *Authorizing Permissive Use of 5G Broadcast as a Transmission Standard for Low Power Television Stations*, MB Docket 25-168, Petition for Rulemaking of HC2 Broadcast Holdings Inc. (filed March 28, 2025); see *also* Public Notice, DA 25-382 (May 2, 2025).

II. THE PETITION UNDERMINES THE COMMISSION’S WORK ON ATSC 3.0 AND DOES NOT EVEN ENVISION PROVIDING BROADCAST TV SERVICES

Broadcast TV is in the midst of an all-in transition to the ATSC 3.0 standard essential to the long-term competitiveness and viability of the industry. Broadcast TV stations already have invested hundreds of millions of dollars to build capacity to utilize the ATSC 3.0 standard. There are currently 84 receivers available for ATSC 3.0,³ and many more receivers capable of receiving DTV (ATSC 1.0) signals. Broadcasters have successfully launched ATSC 3.0 in 80 markets,⁴ which reaches approximately 75 percent of the U.S. population.⁵ The Consumer Technology Association has established the NEXTGEN TV certification and logo program, which is designed to help identify devices that are ATSC 3.0 compliant.⁶ More than 100 NextGen TV models that include ATSC 3.0 tuners are currently available.⁷ Major manufacturers, such as Hisense, Samsung, Sony, TCL, and Panasonic, have invested in the ATSC 3.0 transition.⁸ The sale of NextGen TV sets already has reached nearly 14 million units.⁹ And approximately 10 percent of all TV sets shipped to U.S. retailers are ATSC 3.0 compatible.¹⁰ But as NAB lays out in detail in its ATSC 3.0 petition,¹¹ the transition requires a coordinated industry-wide effort to achieve full-scale adoption of this standard that will redound to the benefit of the whole

³ NextGen TV, *Shop Devices*, <https://www.watchnextgentv.com/shop/> (retrieved May 30, 2025).

⁴ *Authorizing the Permissive Use of the “Next Generation” Broadcast Television Standard*, Petition for Rulemaking, GN Docket No. 16-142 at 9 (Feb. 26, 2025).

⁵ *Id.*

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ *Id.*

⁸ *Id.*

⁹ *Id.*

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.* at 12.

industry and to consumers. ATSC 3.0 is where the FCC's attention should be laser-focused. By contrast, NAB isn't aware of any commercial receivers capable of receiving 5G Broadcast. The Petition makes a late-in-time proposal that is unproven and not in the service of viewers.

Worse yet, the petitioner's 5G "Broadcast" service does not appear to have *any intention of actually broadcasting*. Indeed, the Petition calls for the Commission to examine whether "LPTV spectrum [should be] exclusively devoted to datacasting without the need for a free-to-air signal."¹² While this Petition threatens to shift badly needed attention away from the critical ATSC 3.0 transition to a service that cannot be received, it offers nothing to the public in the way of broadcasting. If this Petition should be considered at all, the Commission should wait until *after* the transition to ATSC 3.0 has been completed, as, surely, the essential ATSC 3.0 transition shouldn't be distracted by a service that does not even purport to provide broadcast TV services.

III. THE PETITION FAILS TO CARRY ITS BURDEN OF SHOWING THAT 5G BROADCAST WILL NOT INTERFERE WITH OTHER BROADCAST SIGNALS AND OTHER SERVICES

The issues identified above, however, are not the end of the matter, as the Petition fails to clear its most critical hurdle for even being considered: It provides virtually no information or evidence demonstrating that adopting 5G Broadcast will not lead to interference. The petitioner claims without any supporting analysis that 5G Broadcast transmissions will have "no greater potential for increased harmful interference to any other broadcast or non-broadcast users than there would be from LPTV stations using the ATSC 1.0 or ATSC 3.0 transmission standard."¹³ In addition to ATSC 1.0 and 3.0 broadcast stations, television spectrum is shared in some areas

¹³ Petition at 3.

with land mobile and other systems on a co-channel basis.¹⁴ Other systems also operate in spectrum adjacent to that authorized for LPTV stations¹⁵ and a technical analysis is necessary to determine whether those systems would be impacted by 5G Broadcast transmissions. The burden is on the petitioner to prove its claim, not the incumbent services. But the Petition fails to meet that standard. This is, of course, table stakes for even being considered, and for that reason alone, the Petition should be rejected.


IV. CONCLUSION

The Petition seeks to distract attention from the ATSC 3.0 transition that requires the whole industry's focus to divert to an unproven technology not intended to be used to provide broadcast TV services and very well may cause interference with incumbent services. For the above reasons, the Commission should reject this Petition.

Respectfully submitted,

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF
BROADCASTERS**

1 M Street, SE
Washington, DC 20003
(202) 429-5430



Rick Kaplan
Alison Martin
Nandu Machiraju
Robert Weller

June 2, 2025

¹⁴ See, e.g., 47 C.F.R. § 90.301ff.

¹⁵ 47 C.F.R. § 2.106.