

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

October 26, 2007

The Honorable Kevin Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin:

As Members of the New Jersey Congressional Delegation, we are writing to express our concerns regarding a recent decision by the FCC which may seriously and adversely impact our state's ability to deal effectively with emergencies.

It is our understanding that the FCC is considering applications to license a new 10,000 watt commercial radio station on the 1700 AM frequency in Rockland County, New York. We have been informed that the strength of the signal from this new station would create enough interference to force off the air eight Travelers Information Stations (TIS) throughout New Jersey.

During emergencies, the threatened TIS stations are a critical public safety tool for first responders and emergency management officials, providing them with the opportunity to speak directly to the public. In contrast, commercial radio stations' operations often are not controlled in the local area, making it difficult for local officials to coordinate emergency communications. TIS broadcasts are particularly well-suited for emergency communications because they are heard on universally available, AM radio receivers and TIS radio stations typically are set up to operate for extended periods with no electrical power.

In the wake of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, TIS stations went on the air across New Jersey to advise residents of how to take action in the event of another terrorist incident. TIS stations also provide public information during natural disasters. Unlike commercial radio stations, TIS stations automatically broadcast NOAA All-Hazard emergency messages.

Because of the critical role TIS stations play in an emergency, we are very concerned that the proposed Rockland County station threatens to take them off the air. We are also concerned that the FCC apparently diverged from its normal application process for assigning AM expanded allotments in this case.

We urge the FCC to suspend consideration of this new commercial radio station until this situation can be resolved. Thank you for considering this request.

Sincerely,



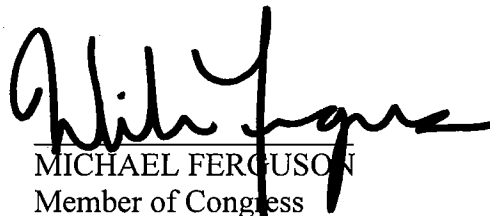
FRANK R. LAUTENBERG
U.S. Senator



ROBERT MENENDEZ
U.S. Senator



ALBIO SIRES
Member of Congress



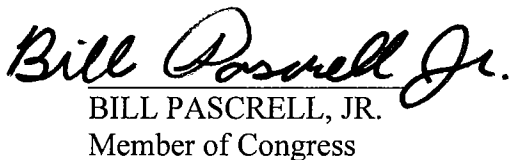
MICHAEL FERGUSON
Member of Congress



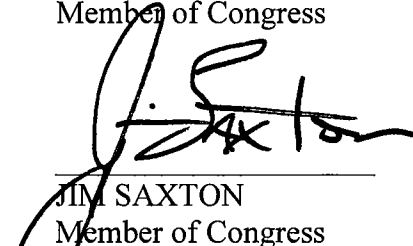
STEVEN R. ROTHMAN
Member of Congress



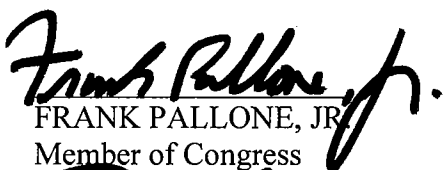
DONALD M. PAYNE
Member of Congress



BILL PASCRELL, JR.
Member of Congress



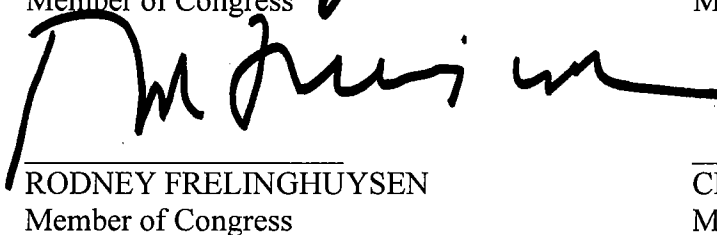
JIM SAXTON
Member of Congress



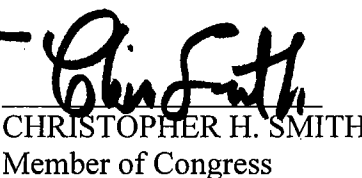
FRANK PALLONE, JR.
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RODNEY FRELINGHUYSEN
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