Public Comments on Expansion of Online Public File Obligations to Cable and Satellite TV Operators and Broadcast and Satellite Radio Licensees:

Title: Expansion of Online Public File Obligations to Cable and Satellite TV Operators and Broadcast and Satellite Radio Licensees

FR Document Number: 2015-02531

RIN:

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Comment: Kindly be advised the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) required Public Files are of very little interest to the public but serve as an overused means for the issuance of, in many cases, unjustified FCC fines. The following is a brief summary of matters that seriously concern every professionally dedicated broadcast licensee in the nation.

Indeed, broadcasters spend millions of dollars each year attempting to be compliant with CFR Parts 73 and 11 with their frequent additions and numerous modifications that few licensees ever become aware of. The unnecessary, extraordinary costs that are imposed involve: fines, fees, forfeitures and most significantly legal costs. Indeed, many small market licensees have simply pulled the plug on their
stations and forfeited their licenses as a result of this widespread abuse, others have gone bankrupt or struggle desperately to stay afloat. (Examples available to members of Congress upon request.)

A not-for-profit coalition designed to address "The Transparency, Clarification and Simplification of Regulations pertaining to American Broadcasting"(r) has submitted to the FCC numerous documented examples including petitions to address the irresponsible enforcement actions that in many cases have cost licensees very substantially in legal assistance costs.

The policy of the FCC is to simply ignore such abuses when such brought to their attention. At this time a few prominent congressmen are attempting to break the long-standing wall of transparency imposed by the FCC, including US House members Fred Upton, Tim Murphy and Greg Walden each of whom co-signed a 2/18/2015 letter to FCC Chairman Tom Wheeler that precisely address the concerns referenced herein.

An excellent source of information defining our concerns is the website: www.theBDR.net. (Suggestion: Scroll to an item by Mr. Michael Dudding, Licensee of KDSN-AM/FM located in Dennison, Iowa) -- One classic example of FCC abuse.

Respectfully submitted and with appreciation for your consideration,

Kenneth J. Benner, Executive Director of the referenced Coalition.

Semi-retired NCE & SBE Certified Broadcast Engineer after

56 years of serving proudly American Broadcasting

FRN: 0007765852

P.C.: US House Members Messrs. Upton, Murphy and Walden

US Senator John McCain, for Arizona

Arizona, Iowa and Minnesota Broadcasters’ Associations
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