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December 26, 2013

Federal Communications Commission  
via Internet  
RE: 13-249 Revitalization of the AM Radio Service

Dear Sirs:

I collect and restore radios (mainly from the late 1920s to 1950s), and am a member of the board of directors of the Southern California Antique Radio Society. Restored old home radios work well and most are nice objects which enhance the rooms in which they are placed.

Southern California has numerous AM broadcasters of music (yes music on AM), talk, news, and sports in a wide variety of languages. I suspect that the FCC statement that fewer young people listen to AM is missing many of the “ethnic” or recent immigrant listeners, so encourage more and better research.

There are many millions of AM radios in homes and vehicles, some valued simply for functionality, others also for appearance. It is vital that the FCC do nothing to make them non-functional or obsolete, as this would adversely affect most people. As others have commented, AM radios are affordable to all, but replacing radios rendered non-functional or obsolete would be an economic burden to most all of us. There is no good reason to inflict any such harm on the people of the United States.

Sorry if this is too blunt for you, but the FCC has all but completely failed to protect the AM band from interference. I installed a new ceiling fan & light in my ‘radio room’ where I display most of my collection, then noted horrible interference. I discovered some improperly-designed device inside of it designed to preclude installing larger than specified lamps which was broadcasting the noise. Improperly-designed compact fluorescent lamps are another common source of improper broadcasting in the AM band. As Crawford Broadcasting commented, the power companies are also being allowed to improperly broadcast noise. The FCC needs to act vigorously and forcefully to fine and prosecute those responsible for these improper noise transmission sources.

Eliminating IBOC, the source of much objectionable noise, would go a long way towards helping AM radio listeners. While many vehicles come with HD AM radio functions, I am unaware of anyone who has bought an HD AM radio on purpose, and think that analysis of sales data will show that most all HD AM radio receivers have not been bought on purpose. Instead, it is a function which came with a device purchased for other purposes, and which was not specifically desired.

Sincerely,



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