



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON

OFFICE OF  
THE CHAIRMAN

March 19, 2014

The Honorable Angus S. King  
United States Senate  
359 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator King:

Thank you for your letter regarding the Pen Bay Islands Community Group's (PBICG) application for a new low power FM (LPFM) station in Vinalhaven, Maine.

As you are probably aware, the window for LPFM applications closed on November 15, 2013. The Commission received more than 2,800 applications. Because the broadcast application process is highly technical, the Commission staff initiated extra steps to inform interested entities of the requirements under our Rules in advance of the LPFM filing window. The Commission recognized, as you did in your letter, that the entities most likely to apply for an LPFM application would need additional assistance. The agency anticipated a large number of applications and conducted outreach to ensure that all applicants were aware of the rules and procedures required for submission of an LPFM application. To that end, the Commission's Media Bureau announced the filing window and procedures in June 2013 and conducted two instructional webinars for potential applicants. The Bureau also developed online channel finders and posted documents on the FCC's LPFM webpage to provide additional guidance.

As you note, the PBICG's application was dismissed on December 5, 2013 for failure to meet the minimum spacing requirements required by Section 73.807 of the Commission's Rules (47 C.F.R. § 73.807). The dismissal letter stated that under existing Commission Rules, such "short-spaced" applications are dismissed without an opportunity to amend. The Media Bureau is reviewing a Petition for Reconsideration filed by PBICG, and will address the issues raised in the petition as expeditiously as possible.

I appreciate your interest in this matter. Please let me know if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Tom Wheeler".

Tom Wheeler