

FRANK R. LAUTENBERG

NEW JERSEY

COMMITTEES:

APPROPRIATIONS

BUDGET

COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION

ENVIRONMENT AND
PUBLIC WORKS

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

November 15, 2007

The Honorable Kevin J. Martin, Chairman
The Honorable Michael J. Copps, Commissioner
The Honorable Jonathan S. Adelstein, Commissioner
The Honorable Deborah Taylor Tate, Commissioner
The Honorable Robert M. McDowell, Commissioner
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Martin and Commissioners Copps, Adelstein, Tate, and McDowell:

I was very pleased to learn that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) will be holding a public forum on the WWOR license renewal in Newark, New Jersey on November 28. Because of the importance of this forum and the license renewal proceeding to New Jersey, I urge each of you to attend the forum.

If the densely populated State of New Jersey had its own media market, it would be the fourth-largest media market in the country. However, as you know, New Jersey is the only state in the nation that does not have a designated market area (DMA). Instead, New Jersey's nine million residents must share two out-of-state DMAs. As a result, studies have shown that New Jersey government, elections, and public affairs receive insufficient local news coverage.

WWOR is the only commercial high-power station licensed in New Jersey. The WWOR license makes clear—and the FCC has confirmed on multiple occasions—that WWOR has special obligations to serve Northern New Jersey. However, two petitions to deny WWOR's license renewal have been filed that raise serious questions as to whether WWOR has met its obligations to New Jersey. For example, according to a Rutgers University study cited by one petitioner, WWOR provides less coverage of New Jersey politics than most of the New York-based television stations.

The FCC's public forum will give New Jersey residents a chance to voice their concerns about WWOR and to explain the effects of inadequate New Jersey media coverage. I hope that you will attend the forum and seize this opportunity to hear from New Jersey residents first-hand as you consider the WWOR license renewal proceeding.

Sincerely,

