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RE Transfer of License WUMD > WRNI Informal Objection
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To The Secretary of the FCC:

January 7, 2017

I am an avid listener of both WRNI and WUMD. I am a child of the 1970s and spent hours listening to National Public Radio, at the time the main station we received here in RI was WGBH. As a teenager I was bored with public radio and began listening to other radio stations "south of 92" and WUMD (then 91.1 WUSM) was where I gravitated. The station played a wide variety of music, had a public service aspect to it, community affairs, foreign language programming as well. As and Eagle Scout I liked how a radio station could give back to its community, much like the community service projects I participated in and later designed while a Boy Scout. As a college student in Boston, I became involved at the university's radio station as I learned it had the same vibrant culture, giving back to the community as a community based radio station. Like WUMD it serves the community with true local programming, as well as national programming, and like WUMD members of the local community help run the station, broadcast shows and teach students and locals how to run the radio station. WUMD has been broadcasting for more than 40 years and has served its local community with rich vibrant programming for decades.

I moved from RI to the Boston area for college and graduate school. When I lived in the Boston after my graduation, I began listening to WBUR, located at Boston University, and originally the Parent Station that fostered the growth of WRNI so RI could have its own local NPR affiliate. While I realize WRNI has come a long way, after starting as an AM station with a "repeater" on the FM dial, growing enough to "borrow" transmitters to "repeat" their signal to a broader audience throughout the state. They have relationships with area high schools to use their underutilized transmitters/ radio stations and I am grateful for these relationships. I believe RI is a better informed state because of this radio station and very much like WUMD, they give back to the community through their local affairs programming. I understand how WRNI wants to broaden their broadcast range, but taking a well established college radio station that caters to a wide ranging local community is not the way. On WUMD there is TLGBQ programming, local affairs programming, ethnic music and affairs programming, spoken word programming, local radio at its finest, it is not news and talkshows. I realize that WRNI has offered and is paying the University 1.5 million dollars to help

students with financial aid, and they are offering internships and other student mentor based activities, but it will eradicate a community's radio station, and students who might be involved with mentoring and internships with WRNI will have to travel 15-20 minutes, across state lines. I was told by Mr Hoey, the University's Assistant CHancellor for Strategic Communications, that WUMD will still be available "online" the same could be said for WRNI, and they already broadcast on 3 frequencies !

There are other radio frequencies available which may offer solutions which will not foster ill-will, because a community will lose its radio station, a community of every walk of life, age and ethnic background. Providence College and Roger Williams University BOTH have underutilized radio stations. The Providence College station is 91.3, right next to WRNI uses (91.5) and the station has the capability of broadcasting to the East Bay of RI as well as the northern parts of the state. Students used to use the station but they don't seem to use it much at all anymore. Roger Williams University is in Bristol RI on the East Bay, and has a strong transmitter and wide broadcast range as well. For years it has had a "mix tape" played on endless-loop which is its programming. It does not offer local programming, community outreach, national news, public affairs programming, programs on science, astronomy, TLGBQ Affairs, non-mainstream news and interviews, a variety of music, public service announcements, and it is not a part of an established community of participants and listeners. Both the PC or RWU stations could be used as a "repeaters" as is currently done at both Wheeler School in Providence (88.1), and Coventry High School, in Coventry (91.5), and WRNI will be able to cover the entire state as well as parts of Massachusetts and Connecticut, which seems to be their motivation for purchasing WUMD. While I like NPR and their RI affiliate, i find it to be a very sad day when a NPR station can offer a university money, and steal a well established radio station that has been broadcasting for over 40 years to an invested community that runs, participates and broadcasts from, and listens to the station. The WUMD community is educated and informed by the programming that is as diverse as the station's listening audience.

I hope you will take this all into considerations, before granting the transfer of license to WRNI. There are VIABLE options of other radio stations that are not being used, and are in the perfect geographic locations to help WRNI better reach its listening audience; none of these options include the transfer of the WUMD broadcasting license.

Sincerely


John Nanian

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