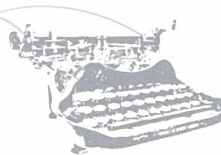


John Castellucci

29 Stratford Rd. Cranston, RI 02905



RECEIVED

2017 FEB -8 A 11: 05

Jan. 29, 2017

Received & Inspected  
FEB 07 2017  
FCC Mail Room

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: Informal objection to transfer of license from WUMD to WRNI

File: BALED-20170104AAT

To the Secretary of the FCC:

On Jan. 4, the University of Massachusetts, Dartmouth, announced that, in return for \$1.5 million, it was selling the license of its student-run FM radio station -- WUMD broadcasting at 89.3 megahertz -- to Rhode Island Public Radio, the NPR news station in Rhode Island. I am writing to urge the FCC to reject the transfer.

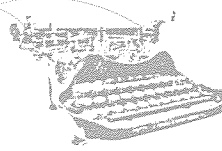
Rhode Island Public Radio, operating as WRNI, currently broadcasts not only on its assigned frequency of 102.7 FM, but also on two additional frequencies owned by local schools: 91.5 FM WCVY, belonging to the Coventry Public School system, and 88.1 FM WELH 88.1, belonging to the Wheeler School in Providence.

Allowing the University of Massachusetts to transfer WUMD's broadcast license to Rhode Island Public Radio will give RIPR another frequency on which to broadcast, in effect increasing the redundancy of the news and talk shows already being offered at no fewer than three spots on the FM dial. It would gobble up another chunk of the crowded FM spectrum, and bump a robust 45-year-old college radio station off the air.

That would deprive me and other listeners in Rhode Island and Southeastern Massachusetts of the unique news and music programming that WUMD

John Castellucci

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currently offers. It would clutter the airwaves with a lot of canned National Public Radio and American Public Radio programming – content that's being broadcast, not only by WRNI, but also by the Boston public radio station, WGBH.

In news articles, RIPR's President, CEO and General Manager Torey Malatia has been quoted as saying that buying WUMD would enable WRNI to improve spotty reception in Providence and East Bay and double Rhode Island Public Radio's potential audience. He has also been quoted as saying that, once the \$1.5 million license transfer deal goes through, RIPR plans to spend another \$1 million to move WUMD's transmitter to Tiverton R.I.

Which raises the question: Wouldn't it make more sense to kill the deal and spend the \$2.5 earmarked for the project to upgrade WRNI's transmitter, whose 10,000 kilowatt signal is currently too weak to reach all of Rhode Island Public Radio's listeners? Why gobble up another chunk of the FM radio spectrum and bump an innovative college radio station off the air when Rhode Island Public Radio could accomplish its objectives simply by upgrading its transmitter and broadcasting on its assigned frequency of 102.7 FM?

Please contact me if you have any questions. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Castellucci". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

John Castellucci