11-25-14

To whom it may concern:

I would like to express my support for the agreement negotiated between SoundExchange and College Broadcasters, Inc. (CBI) to largely keep the current rates and terms of the statutory license in place for the next five years (2016-2020). I believe these terms (published in the Federal Register on November 5, 2014) are reasonable and best represent the interests of my station.

I am the faculty adviser to WRST-FM at the University of Wisconsin Oshkosh which has been a party to the current agreement since October 2009. Our station debuted in 1966 and is an integral part of the Radio TV Film curriculum at our university. It is our mission to provide students the most authentic, real-world experience as part of their media education, and internet streaming is now an essential part of the modern broadcasting landscape. As a person with over 25 years of professional broadcasting experience in both commercial and public radio, I know how important stations like WRST are in providing the professional training necessary for a student to become a responsible media practitioner. Keeping the station available via the internet is an essential component of this mission.

Maintaining the current rates and terms for the statutory license for non-commercial stations like us best serves both the educational needs of these students and allows us to serve the online listener as well.

I believe the annual rates as currently stated are reasonable and will allow us to continue to operate an internet stream, but even a moderate increase in fees may force small stations like ours to cease streaming. Adding additional onerous record keeping in what is essentially a volunteer environment may also force an abandonment of streaming.

I am grateful for the work that CBI and SoundExchange did in reaching this reasonable agreement and I encourage the Board to adopt it.

Thank you.

Randall Davidson
Director of Radio Services/WRST-FM

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