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Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

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July 14, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Room 8-B201H
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Re: FCC-99-6
MM Docket No. 99-25

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We, the undersigned members of the New York State Congressional Delegation, support the creation of low power FM broadcasting stations for public service entities such as the New York State Thruway Authority (NYSTA) that are fulfilling critical public safety functions.

NYSTA operates and maintains a 641-mile highway system that traverses the entire state of New York. As part of this operation, NYSTA utilizes numerous Travelers' Information Service (TIS) radio facilities to broadcast public safety and travel advisory information to the motoring public. As you know, pursuant to current Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regulations, TIS must operate on the AM band at low power levels. Despite NYSTA's implementation of numerous engineering design changes, limitations inherent in the AM band coupled with the mandated low power levels result in poor broadcast quality which can, at times, be practically unintelligible. This is of grave concern because NYSTA's ability to communicate with highway travelers is critical to the safe and efficient movement of traffic, not only during periods of planned construction, but more particularly during emergency situations.

On January 28, 1998, you and the other Members of the FCC announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) to create a new, low power FM broadcasting service. This service would provide an opportunity for TIS to migrate to the FM band, thereby significantly improving the quality and reliability of TIS and the safety of the traveling public. The importance of TIS cannot be overstated. Not only is it the primary conduit of the transmission of traffic information to Thruway patrons, but it can also serve as a vital link in the chain of communication systems that will be pressed into service in the event of a local or national

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emergency. Simply put, creation of low power FM stations for these purposes represents an historic opportunity to contribute to public safety.

For these reasons, we strongly urge the FCC to adopt the low power proposal for public service entities like NYSTA. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

Sincerely,

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Thomas Reynolds

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Jack Quinn

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