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To: crb@loc.gov
Date: Thu, Apr 22, 2010 10:47 AM
Subject: Copyright comments in support of adoption of WSA2009

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to urge the adoption of the Webcasting Settlement Act of 2009 into federal regulations for 2011-2015.

As adviser to a fledgling student-run webstreaming radio station, I am convinced that for noncommercial educational microcasters such as ours, WSA2009 is essential to the continued pursuit of our mission, to educate students in streaming radio technology and programming and to inform and entertain our university community of listeners. The rates established by the settlement between College Broadcasters, Inc. and SoundExchange must be preserved in order for small, noncommercial stations like ours to survive.

Our student-run station, Hawkstream Radio, based in the Division of Student Affairs at the University of North Carolina Wilmington, is exclusively an online project, with no broadcast component, meaning that the number of listeners is tiny. It was founded two years ago yet would be unable to afford royalty fees were it not for the WSA2009. I have no doubt that the terms of the agreement negotiated by College Broadcasters, Inc. and SoundExchange and published in the Federal Register on April 1, 2010, represents our station's best interests and serves our interests better than past regulations. This is due mainly to the reduced royalty fees proposed for stations whose monthly online listeners is measured in the hundreds rather than in the hundreds of thousands is more fair and more sustainable, and because the flat reporting fee for microcasters makes it possible for our fledgling station to start small while putting more sophisticated technology and reporting procedures in place. The settlement agreement clearly provides a reasonable basis for setting statutory terms and rates.

Thank you for your consideration.

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