



PUBLIC REFERENCE COPY

PUBLIC SERVICE SATELLITE CONSORTIUM
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RECEIVED BY
NOV 26 1990

MAIL BRANCH

November 23, 1990

Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Room 222
Washington, DC 20554

Attention: Office of the Secretary

Re: File Number 49/50-DSS-P/LA-90

Dear Secretary:

Enclosed please find an original and ten copies of the Statement of the Public Service Satellite Consortium regarding Satellite CD-Radio Inc. for the authorization for a Digital Audio Radio Service Satellite System.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Louis A. Bransford".

Louis A. Bransford
President

RECEIVED

NOV 28 1990

Domestic Facilities Division
Satellite Radio Branch

NOV 16 1990
MAIL BRANCH

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

Application of
Satellite CD Radio, Inc.)
for Authorization of a) File Nos. 49/50-DSS-P/LA-90
Digital Audio Radio Service) 58/59-DSS-AMEND-90
Satellite System)

COMMENTS OF PUBLIC SERVICE SATELLITE CONSORTIUM
IN SUPPORT OF THE PUBLIC INTEREST BENEFITS
OF DIGITAL AUDIO RADIO SERVICE
REGULATORY POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

Public Service Satellite Consortium (PSSC) represents the telecommunications interests of a large and diverse group of nonprofit organizations and speaks on their behalf regarding various policy and regulatory issues. Accordingly, we believe certain issues raised in the Satellite CD Radio application for authorization of a Digital Audio Radio (DAR) Service Satellite System have public interest implications and PSSC wishes to comment in support of the application.

The referenced DAR satellite system involves tow high-power broadcasting satellites, to be launched into geostationary orbit, during the middle of 1994. Approximately 100 channels of compact disk quality radio programming would be broadcast directly from the satellite to inexpensive mobile and portable radios. A non-common carrier regulatory structure is proposed, with channel sales being made to local broadcasters as well as new programmers operating on a subscription basis.

A review of the referenced DAR regulatory policy considerations, suggest that proposed service would benefit the public interest by separating satellite system operations from satellite programming. This would ensure against vertical monopoly abuses. Essentially, a variety of programmer options, advertiser supported or subscription, would allow the public greater flexibility in the service it desires. A rigid common carrier structure might lead to service inflexibility which might not serve the public interest and could have even more of a negative impact on public service users who typically have more limited resources. On this basis, PSSC encourages the FCC to rule favorably on the Satellite CD Radio Inc. application.