

Concurring Statement of
FCC Commissioner James H. Quello

In re: By Direction Letter to NAB relative to Region 2 Conference
 on AM Broadcasting.

I don't share the confidence which the Commission has expressed regarding our ability to be adequately prepared for next year's Region 2 conference. We initially arrived at a position favoring 9 kHz with a record that failed to adequately support that position.

As I indicated in my December 12th statement a year ago, there were too many theoretical projections of the effects of the change in channel spacing some of which were directly contradicted by actual tests and measurements. We failed to adequately assess the impact of such a change on the prospects of AM stereo. We raised expectations among potential beneficiaries which I doubt will ever be realized, among them minority entrepreneurs who have been less than enthusiastic about this proposal from the beginning.

Again, the Commission has taken a great leap of faith that we will be adequately prepared for the upcoming Region 2 conference and that the record will support the change to 9 kHz. I stand ready to be convinced by the evidence--when and if it is presented.

Therefore, I reluctantly concur.