



FCC Petition Filed to End Compliance Violations at WBAI-FM

Date: May 3, 2022

Pacifica Safety Net (PSN) filed a [petition to deny](#) with the Federal Communications Commission on Monday requesting an investigation of New York's WBAI-FM for potential ongoing FCC violations involving: self-inurement, underwriting, public file omissions, sponsorship ID regulations, and potential pay for play or plugola. Pacifica Safety Net requested several remedies detailing what can be done, short of license revocation, to address the ongoing compliance issues at WBAI.

Commenting as PSN President, Sherry Gendelman stated, "As long-time supporters of Pacifica and its five owned stations, we take no pleasure in this action, and most certainly we do not advocate that WBAI's renewal application be denied. Pacifica's storied history since 1949 speaks strongly in favor of the station being permitted to continue its service to the public, but with the errant actions and persons suitably sanctioned and removed."

Gendelman added, "It is indeed sad to see that medical quacks and other self-interested parties now dominate WBAI and appear to be working hand in hand with those wishing to diminish or disable Pacifica stations altogether. As these commercial style "fundraising" programs have come to dominate WBAI, programming of merit is marginalized or lost. The audience shrinks to a core of those seeking miracle cures, and even the most die-hard listeners of old, such as many of the foreign-born cab drivers, become disgusted and stop tuning in."

PSN Pacifica Safety Net is a 501(c)3 "Friends Of" organization that includes listeners and donors to both WBAI-FM and the other four Pacifica Foundation NCE stations, created to support and safeguard Pacifica stations.

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