VAB Voice I Wednesday, February 19, 2025



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VAB Hall of Famer Bruce James Sells NEK Radio Stations to Vermont Senator Russ Ingalls





Bruce James, owner of Vermont Broadcast Associates, is selling his seven Northeast Kingdom radio stations to Vermont Senator Russ Ingalls from Newport.

James founded the radio group 35 years ago starting with a single station in Lyndonville and grew his broadcast group to become a market leader covering 1/3 of Vermont and northern New Hampshire.

James, who is a VAB Hall of Fame broadcaster, has led his group with a hands-on local approach. The broadcaster said that while he enjoys the radio business and being able to have a positive impact on the communities his radio stations serve, he's looking forward to retirement and handing over the day-to-day operations to a company with strong local ties. Russell Ingalls is this person, James says. "I've known Russ for over twenty-five years and have seen him contributing to the area's success and his involvement in the local communities," James said, "Russ will continue the tradition of strong local radio."

"I've loved the radio business for years and have watched Bruce grow his company into a tremendously respected radio group that truly serves the local communities it operates in," said Senator Ingalls. "I, too, am committed to serving the local communities in northeastern Vermont and northern New Hampshire, as I have done over the years as owner of Remax All Seasons Real Estate, to which I will continue to do in conjunction. I plan to grow both companies even more as we introduce all 7 radio stations into social and electronic media, offering our advertisers a greater value in reaching their customers," Ingalls continued. Russ Ingalls' company, Green Mountain Broadcasters, will operate radio stations WMOO, JJ Country and WIKE in Newport, plus Magic 97.7, Kix 105.5 and WSTJ in the St. Johnsbury area, in addition to WMTK The Notch in Littleton, NH. Ingalls says the radio stations' current staff is highly regarded and will continue with the new ownership.

Senator Sanders & Representative Balint

Cosponsor AM Radio For Every Vehicle Act





Vermont broadcasters thank Senator Bernie Sanders and Representative Becca Balint for signing on as cosponsors of the AM Radio For Every Vehicle Act!

This act would require the U.S. Department of Transportation to mandate that AM radio receivers be installed in *every* vehicle sold in the U.S. as a piece of emergency equipment akin to airbags, seatbelts and emergency brakes.

These members of Vermont's congressional delegation understand the critical role AM radio plays in the Emergency Alert System and that its crucial for all Americans to be able to receive alerts, no matter where they are, during times of emergency.

The *AM Radio for Every Vehicle* Act was introduced in the last session of Congress with overwhelming bipartisan support, but was unable to cross the finish line before the session adjorned in December. Senators Markey (MA) and Cruz (TX) reintroduced the bill (S.315) three weeks ago and Senator Sanders signed on immediately as an original cosponsor. It currently has 46 cosponsors and has already passed favorably through the Senate Commerce committee. The House version of the bill (H.R. 979) was introduced last week by Representatives Bilirakis (FL) and Pallone (NJ) and Vermont Rep. Becca Balint signed on yesterday as a cosponsor! Vermont broadcasters thank Senator Sanders and Rep. Balint for their support of Vermont's 17 AM radio stations.

VAB Paid Internship Subsidies Available Now



The VAB's Intern Subsidy Program, designed to connect stations who need workforce help with students interested in Broadcasting, is accepting applications now for internship subsidies.

CLICK HERE to download the application. If your station is selected, you will have full control over the interview and hiring process and will receive a check for \$1,933.38 (enough to pay the intern for 120 hours @ \$14.01/hour+15% towards payroll taxes) upon adding a qualifying* intern to your payroll.

To qualify, the intern must be a junior or senior enrolled in a higher education program pertaining to communications, media, audio/video production, marketing or engineering.

Free Webinar February 20th



Thursday, Feb. 20th 12:00PM

A Conversation with the Congressional Broadcasters Caucus hosted by Nicole Gustavson, NAB Government Relations

REGISTER

Use promo code **NASBA25** at checkout for a \$0 balance

Broadcast Job Openings Around Vermont







Morning Show Personality, Junior
Account Executive, Digital
Marketing Consultant, Account
Executive

Part-time Announcers



Vermont Public

Future Focus Intern, Multimedia Journalist,, Sales Traffic Assistant, Media Executive, Meteorologist, Technical Media Producer <u>Chief Financial Officer, Director of Philanthropy,</u> <u>Broadcast Engineer - Transmitter</u>









Multimedia Journalist, Local News Producer, Local
News Executive Producer, Business/Human
Resources Manager, Sales Account Associate,
Account Executive

Broadcast Internship, Senior News Producer,
Anchor/Multimedia Journalist, Senior Sales
Account Executive, Junior Sales Account
Executive, Sports Anchor/Reporter, Digital Content
Producer, Graphic Artist, Multimedia Journalist

This Week at the FCC



Every week, the attorneys at <u>Wilkinson Barker Knauer, LLP</u> in Washington D.C. provide a summary of the regulatory and legal actions of significance to broadcasters within the FCC. They also provide links to information about how these actions may affect your operations. Read this week's summary as well as summaries from past weeks at:

vermontbroadcasters.org/this-week-at-the-fcc

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