



College Broadcasters, Inc.

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## **CBI, Sole Student Media Representative, Reaches Settlement with SoundExchange on Webcasting Royalty Rates**

College Broadcasters, Inc. (CBI) has successfully negotiated a settlement agreement with SoundExchange regarding webcasting royalty rates for noncommercial educational webcasters. The agreement covers the period from 2026 through 2030, and represents a significant achievement for college and high school radio stations engaged in webcasting.

As the sole representative of student media interests in these negotiations, CBI has once again demonstrated its commitment to protecting and advancing the rights of student broadcasters. This exclusive participation underscores the organization's vital role in shaping the future of noncommercial educational webcasting.

### **Settlement Highlights**

The agreement, which was submitted to the Copyright Royalty Board (CRB) Judges and published yesterday for public comment, largely maintains the current provisions for noncommercial educational webcasters with four key modifications:

1. A gradual increase in the minimum fee, rising by \$50 per year throughout the rate period.
2. An increase in the minimum fee usage threshold from 159,140 to 160,000 Aggregate Tuning Hours (ATH).
3. A reduction in the reporting and payment period for exceeding the ATH threshold from 45 to 30 days.
4. Added clarification on the counting of channels and stations.

### **Benefits for CBI Members**

"As the only student media organization at the table, we felt an immense responsibility to secure the best possible terms for our members," said CBI President Anabella Poland. This settlement represents a collaborative effort and a significant win for student broadcasters nationwide. By working closely with our experienced pro bono counsel and leveraging crucial input from our membership, we've secured terms that balance fair compensation with the unique needs of noncommercial educational webcasters."

### **Key advantages of the settlement include:**

- Significant cost savings compared to initial proposals.
- Gradual fee increases, allowing for easier budget planning.
- Retention of previous reporting waiver terms.
- A slight increase in the ATH threshold, offering more operational flexibility.

The CBI Board unanimously supported this agreement, recognizing it as the best achievable outcome without the risks and disruptions associated with a trial.

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The settlement has been published by the Copyright Royalty Board for a public comment period. Both CBI and SoundExchange have committed to supporting the agreement and working towards its approval. Barring any significant opposing comments, the settlement is expected to be approved and implemented.

“The information provided by our members was instrumental in achieving these beneficial terms” said Poland. “This settlement ensures stability for noncommercial educational webcasters through 2030, allowing them to focus on their core mission of education and community service.”

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#### About College Broadcasters, Inc. (CBI)

CBI is a member-driven organization serving students and advises of student media. Through events, programs and a network of expertise, CBI fosters experiential learning, professional opportunities and advocacy for the success of student media programs.

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