



November 8 , 2017

Canadian Radio-television and  
Telecommunications Commission  
Ottawa, Ontario, K1A 0N2

**Re: Weather Networks - 2017-0586-5 - Letter of Support**

The Nova Scotia Bird Society is a registered charitable organization incorporated in 1955. We have a paid membership of about 500 people with almost 10,000 people following us on social media. Birding in Canada is growing tremendously fast with 1 in 5 people taking part. In Nova Scotia, we have an extremely active membership who enjoy this birding past time almost completely outdoors and many live in rural areas with limited access to the internet.

Since part of our mandate is to create awareness of wild birds and their habitats the society organizes dozens of outdoor field trips per year that last from several hours to several days and all of those are highly influenced by the current and expected weather conditions. Our members rely on The Weather Network to provide all aspects of short and long-term planning for our activities.

Besides the human comfort issues that weather influences, bird migration in Spring and Fall is highly effected by outside conditions so having up-to-date weather information including significant weather events helps our members plan for optimal opportunities to view migrating birds. The Weather Network helps us predict where birds may be forced down to land and potentially injured after severe weather. This allows us to focus recovery efforts and advise the public.

Having a weather channel that is free or part of basic cable is extremely important to our membership and the Nova Scotia Bird Society supports The Weather Network's application to remain as part of basic television programming that is available to everyone.

Sincerely;

David Currie,  
President, Nova Scotia Bird Society