

## Rothman Hails WWOR-TV's Decision to Remain in New Jersey

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Station's Decision Follows Strong Pressure from Congressman and Senator Lautenberg

Washington, DC - After months of pressure from Congressman Steve Rothman (D-Fair Lawn), U.S. Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-NJ), and other members of the New Jersey congressional delegation, WWOR-TV has abandoned its plans to move the bulk of its news operations to New York City and has announced that it will remain in Secaucus, New Jersey. Rothman and his colleagues had expressed strong concerns about the proposed move because they felt it would decrease the station's coverage of New Jersey news and also contribute to further, unwanted media consolidation. If WWOR-TV had moved out of New Jersey, it would have been run by FOX's news department in New York.

"I am delighted that WWOR-TV, New Jersey's only VHF station, has decided to keep its news operation in Secaucus, thus providing New Jersey residents with the local news coverage that they deserve and depend on," Rothman said. "One of the major challenges we face in this country is the increasing consolidation of media power. Also, here in New Jersey we are inundated with news from New York and Philadelphia and often overlooked when it comes to the coverage of news of importance to New Jerseyans."

The FCC revoked WWOR's license in the early 1980s after an investigation determined that the station's parent company, General Tire and Rubber Co., had engaged in corporate misconduct. The license was ultimately reinstated to WWOR, but the granting of the license was contingent on the station's agreement to relocate to New Jersey and provide coverage of local, New Jersey news. Rothman had argued that WWOR's relocation of its headquarters to New York would have violated the very condition upon which the license was given and meant that the station was no longer living up to its commitment to the community.

During the months leading up to WWOR's decision to stay in New Jersey, Rothman reached out twice to Federal Communications Commission (FCC) Chairman Michael Powell, asking him to determine if the station's move was in violation of its federal licensing agreement. Rothman also expressed his concern to Powell that WWOR's proposed move would limit New Jersey residents' access to diverse sources of local news coverage. Senator Lautenberg met earlier this week with top executives at WWOR to urge them to keep the station in New Jersey. Lautenberg's efforts were critical to getting the station to finally agree to abandon its planned move.

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