

NPR Ombudsman

1111 North Capitol St., NE

Washington, DC 20002

Dear Sir,

We would like to bring to your attention the questionable behavior of an owner and operator of one of your member radio stations. WHDD is an NPR affiliate in Sharon, Connecticut with a small range, essentially the northwest corner of the state and adjacent portions of nearby New York and Massachusetts. It operates and markets itself as "the smallest NPR station in the nation." It is listed in your directory of member stations.

For six years, Marshall Miles has been president and CEO of Tri-State Public Communications, the organization that operates that station. He currently is using the his own on-air commentaries and a political blog, regiononereport.com, to attack the educators in the Regional School District One in Connecticut, as well as members of the Region One Board of Education. His strident voice is one of the major factors in the five defeats of the regional school budget. His attacks are very personal and rarely related to educational issues.

Moreover, he is currently running for election to the Region One Board of Education from the Town of Salisbury, and using his NPR connections to promote that candidacy, even on his Facebook page.

We believe these activities might constitute a violation of the NPR code of ethics, specifically the code for impartiality (<http://ethics.npr.org/category/f-impartiality/>). Because we are unsure how NPR responds in such situations, we would appreciate hearing from you on the subject.

Sincerely,

Susan Clayton, North Canaan, CT

Terry Cowgill, Salisbury, CT

John Mauer, Kent, CT

Laurie Perotti, North Canaan, CT