

# 88.1 WBLQ

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**Response to Report #2254 Rm No. 9208**

I think it's about time that a petition like this is placed before the commission. Consolidation and deregulation has forced Mom and Pop broadcasters out of the business, allowing only organizations with a tremendous amount of money into the business. I am President of Rhode Island Public Radio, Inc. which has licensed to it 88.1Mhz in Westerly, RI (WBLQ). I am very lucky the commission was able to squeeze that station in under the current rules as they exist, but for me at this time, this is my only option. This also means, even though I've put the money up for the station, I don't own it, because Rhode Island Public Radio, Inc. is a non profit corporation. This proposed rule for a specific channel on AM and FM for a micro-radio service is ideal for people like me who have always dreamed of having their own radio station (commercial). It will also significantly reduce the number of unlicensed radio stations out there, because the majority of them have legitimate concerns for serving small communities that are not being serviced, and many of them want to be legal, this is the answer. There is a great need for a service of this type, and yes, I think the FCC should implement it immediately.

*Christopher D. DiPaola, Pres.*  
X Christopher DiPaola, Pres. RIPR, Inc.