

250 E. Elizabeth St.  
Harrisonburg, VA 22802  
February 28, 1998

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The Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioners:

I am writing to support the general notion of RM-9208 and urge the Commission to continue to move forward toward licensing of microstations or low power FM stations. However, I would support an amendment to the petition, using some of the proposals submitted to you by Mr. J. Rodger Skinner, dated 2-20-98. I think Mr. Skinner's proposal for different types of licenses, the availability of more channels, and the options of various wattage thresholds for transmitters will create more opportunities for individuals with limited financial means to own and operate stations.

However, as seems to be intended by RM-9208, I see the need to keep large and medium commercial users out of this market, reserving low power broadcasting for non-commercial and small commercial entities. I would also recommend that licenses be given on a first-come first-serve basis rather than by some type of lottery or auction. In addition, licensing fees and start-up costs need to be kept at an affordable level for individuals.

I would like to see the existence of small community or neighborhood based stations in order to give young people opportunities to be involved in broadcasting and in order to serve specific local community needs and concerns. I am certainly dissatisfied with current radio broadcasting stations in my area. Broadcasting seems to be based primarily on ratings and advertising sales. Little creativity or variety of formats is being broadcasted. It seems large corporations are buying out stations (one corporation owns about 6 stations in Harrisonburg). The result is a loss of responsiveness to community needs and listeners' interests and essentially the domination of the airwaves by one or two corporations in an area.

Thank you for considering RM-9208, and I urge you to move as quickly as possible toward the licensing the of microstations and, thereby, restoring the airwaves to the average American.

Sincerely,



Don Hawks

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