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FCC

Enclosed you will find ten copies of my response to petition for rulemaking number RM-9242. Please distribute them to the appropiate people who will read them. I am doing this in response to what Rodger Skinner has started. Please make note I do not know nor have I been in contact with Mr. Skinner. I am just an ordinary citizen who believes in making my voice heard, although I firmly believe in what Mr. Skinner has started. Thank You.

Sincerly,

Ted Ham II
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This letter is written to you in response to petition for rulemaking number RM-9242.

My name is Ted Ham II and I fully support RM-9242. I am not going to lay the free speech amendment on you or refer to any previous or pending court decisions on people who use the commercial FM band. What I want to basically voice is that commercial radio of today is flat out repitious, predictable, and boring. I mean, every station between 88.1 mhz and 107.9 mhz has a pre made songsheet of the same tired songs over and over. I say "songs", because the majority of my radio listening is to music, not talk shows. That is because I own a buisness and have the radio on every day for me and my customers. I know there are some stations that feature constant talk or religous programming which differ day to day, but lets face it, in my shop here, MUSIC makes the day sail smooth. Now when I hear the same song played four times a day, every day, I only wish for another outlet. Heres where low power FM would be very effective. The operator of such an operation would be free to provide a much larger base of music because he is not on such stringent pre-devised playlist. Also a lot less, if any, commercials would be interjected. You have to ask yourself, how many car sales commercials can a guy stand?, or when you call to request a song why doesn't it actually get played. I know why, because of the corprate structure of the commercial station, they have to stick to a rigouras pre-written songlist. A low power broadcasting operation would not be under the reins of some executives who think they know what the listener wants to hear. Give the choice of music to the people, thats what I believe would happen if there were spots on the dial for low power broadcasters.

Now let me bring up the other side. I know that other things may happen if there were available spots on the dial for micro broadcasters. There might be people who would cry under the umbrella of free speech and broadcast all that anti government crap, and extreme wing stuff. Those are just a handfull of people who in my book are idiots. If you want to hear that stuff listen to Rush Limbaugh or people like him who are doing that now. Then there will be the people who try to imitate Howard Stern and

talk about vulgar stuff. Then there also might be the people who totally disregard the licensing practices of microbroadcasting, if it was ever allowed, and do it illegal. There would be trouble there. The point of all this is that what I have just stated is allready going on now, today, and has been for a long time. So these are not new issues. There is not chaos on the dial now, and I don't think there would be if the would be micro-broadcaster followed the same parameters that the big guys follow. Everything the micro caster wants to do is being done now on commercial radio EXCEPT variety. Thats what needs to be done. We as a listening audience need more variety, and thats what a micro caster would give us, because theres nothing left after that. Think about it, without a pre-programmed playlist there would be VARIETY.

One more thing I want to address is the problem of interference. That would have to be carefully thought out and examined so as not to cause problems. I know it can be done, you have some bright boys at the FCC who could make guidelines and tests for the low power broadcasters equipment and see that it gets FCC accepted.

I have read through the RM-9242 petition and think it is a workable plan. The only thing I would change in it is limit the antenna height to 50 feet above average terrain for all people wishing to do low power fm and limit the wattage to 40 to 60 watts. This would put all interested microcasters on an even keel, and limit coufusion between them. Another thing that might be of interest would be station sharing. I mean if somebody wanted to broadcast on 100 mhz only during the day, then let somebody else use that frequency at night. This would really put meaning into the variety of the programming. I think this plan could really work, provided a set of rules and regs was there to follow.

If you took the time to read this through, thank you.

Ted Ham II Ted Ham 3-4-98

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