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RM-9208

From: "Reilly M. Liebhard" <Wayne.D.Liebhard-2@tc.umn.edu>
To: A4.A4(SJENKINS)
Date: 3/20/98 6:49pm
Subject: RE: FM microbroadcasting -Reply

Here's a little amendment, so-to-speak, to the text which I sent. I'd appreciate if you'd also let Chairman Kennard see this and decide if it needs to be forwarded to RM-9208.

After doing a bit of research, I started thinking that perhaps ten watts was a little too high of a limit and that perhaps five or six watts (3-4 miles) would be more appropriate.

On Fri, 20 Mar 1998 13:55:31 -0500,
SJENKINS@fcc.gov wrote...
>Chairman Kennard
>requested that I
>acknowledge receipt of
>your comment and that I
>have forwarded your
>comment to be associated
>with RM-9208.
>
>>>> Reilly Liebhard
><Wayne.D.Liebhard-2@tc.umn.edu> 02/27/98
>08:29am >>>
>I appreciate your concern
>for the lack of outlets of
>expression over the
>airwaves and realize that
>you are not responsible
>for most of the strict
>regulations
>made and enforced by
>your agency. However, I'd
>still like to see the
>following text get
>to whoever's responsible
>for enforcing the rules.
>Thank you.
>
>----------
-
>----------
> The major function of
>the FCC should be to
>protect public safety,
>meaning that
>the agency's domain
>should be primarily one of
>regulating WHICH
>frequencies can be used
>for WHICH purposes, not
>WHO uses the
>frequencies. Obviously,
>someone using an aircraft
>frequency (such as 123.45
>MHz) for other purposes
>should be dealt with
>severely, but the
>only way a 5- or 10-watt
>community broadcaster

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>on an unoccupied FM
>frequency can be a
>danger is if free speech is
>a danger as well.
> I have often heard that
>the airwaves are "public
>domain". "Public", to me,
>means "for use by
>everyone", not "for use by
>everyone who meets
>50,000 different
>criteria." One doesn't
>need a license to use a
>"public" water fountain!
>The only rules
>that should be in place are
>power limits (so one
>person can't monopolize a
>frequency
>nationwide), limits on
>bandwidth (i.e., FM is 87.5
>to 108.0 MHz), and
>safe/courteous
>operation rules, such as
>mandatory filter use so a
>90 MHz signal doesn't
>interfere with
>a 180 MHz signal. One
>shouldn't be forced to
>spend the time and money
>necessary to
>obtain 100-watt or
>stronger equipment or fill
>out 10 or 20 different
>forms and wait for
>replies. The current
>system is effectively
>saying, "You can have
>your free speech... if
>you pay for it." It also
>seems as if the FCC
>believes that "the
>commoners can't be
>trusted" - while reading
>through the regulations
>one day, I noticed that
>ham
>broadcasters must now be
>relicensed ANNUALLY.
> I propose that one need
>not apply for a license if
>one's FM station is on a
>frequency unoccupied
>within 75 miles and has an
>effective radiated power of
>no more than
>ten watts. Under optimal
>conditions, a ten-watt
>station would transmit for
>six or seven
>miles - enough to speak to
>the community as well as
>to allow others to have
>their voice.

>If this doesn't allow
>enough freedom for other
>broadcasters, a provision
>could be made
>allowing each unlicensed
>community station to
>transmit for no more than
>30 hours a week.
>I sincerely hope that the
>FCC considers the rights
>of "ordinary" citizens and
>changes
>its regulations. The
>airwaves don't belong
>solely to big corporate
>interests. They
>belong to both companies
>and individuals.
>
>Reilly Liebhard
>liebh001@tc.umn.edu
>
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