

March 26, 1998



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Federal Communication Commission
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

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Re: RM 9208
Comments

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Gentlemen,

I am writing to register comments concerning the **Micro-power Radio Broadcast Service Petition, RM 9208**. One might interpret that I am writing this letter because I am self-centered. To a certain degree that is true. Survival is definitely a primary drive in all of mankind. However, that is not the only reason that I am registering comments concerning RM 9208.

I was dead set against the way the National Association of Broadcasters lobbied for ownership deregulation. I felt that a certain amount of deregulation made sense, but the current end result has been a travesty of justice for the American people.

Today what the FCC has done, is to put the First Amendment of the Constitution up for auction or because of deregulation, for sale to the mega-rich. Today, freedom of speech-as it relates to radio-can be afforded only by the mega-rich corporations. CBS now controls 27% of the listening in the top ten markets and Chancellor is close behind with 25%. It is no wonder that illegal, unlicensed radio stations are surfacing in every state.

The solution to illegal broadcasting is not to allow micro-power FM stations to be operating from every corner in the land. What that will do, is further undermine the only freedom of speech left in the broadcasting business, not controlled by the mega-rich, i.e., the "ma and pa" operators who are struggling against the mega-rich communication corporations for survival. What the FCC will accomplish by allowing micro-power stations is to put all of the smaller broadcast companies in harm's way by allowing further erosion of "ma and pa" listening with micro-powered radio stations. The only winner in this whole thing will be the mega-rich communication corporations that have the resources to survive and which probably could care less about RM 9208.

Not only will RM 9208 further erode and destroy free broadcasting by "ma and pa" broadcasters as we know it today, but it will further entrench the mega-rich communication cooperations.

A better approach would be to prevent any further erosion of our free broadcasting system by putting reasonable caps on the number of stations a corporation could own in a given market and maximize the number it could own nation-wide. Certainly a limited number of stations that broadcasters were able to own before deregulation in February, 1996 was too conservative, but what the government has done is gone from black to white. Isn't there a "grey area" in between

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that might serve the American population better?

Please do not allow RM 9208 to pass as it may completely destroy what is left of the smaller broadcaster. Please give those individuals interested in "pirate" or micro-power broadcasting and smaller companies the right to be a part of the American system of broadcasting again by reasonably limiting the number of stations any entity or individual can own in a given market and throughout the nation.

Thank you very much for your consideration of these comments.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "JC", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jim Coursolle, CRMC
President

JC:klb