

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

From: JonCar6802 <JonCar6802@aol.com>
To: A7.A7(WKENNARD)
Date: 3/10/98 5:27pm
Subject: Microradio

RM-9208

Dear Mr. Kennard & Commissioners,

My name is Jonathan Arking and I have been a radio broadcaster for nearly 15 years. Currently I am working at a CBS affiliate in the Detroit market. I wanted to add my voice to those advocating a rethinking of FCC policy in regards to microradio. When the commission imposed the zero tolerance policy in the early 1980's, broadcast radio stations were mostly individually owned and operated in the communities they served. However, since the Telecommunications Act of 1996, we have all watched as the majority of large and medium market stations are bought up by a select group of broadcasting conglomerates, who combine station operations and market strategy so as to maximize profits for the company's shareholders. In the meantime, local content and local programming have dwindled at an alarming rate. This new playing field requires new rules. First and foremost, the commission needs to recognize the current state of affairs and act to preserve the "public airwaves" for the public and not for corporate enrichment. Don't misunderstand me. I completely understand that this is a business and money is at the heart of business. However, the commission has been entrusted with securing the airwaves for public use. By continuing to deny unlicensed microradio while maintaining the status quo in licensed broadcasting, the commission is helping to create a climate that will hurt radio broadcasting's future. I need only refer you to the explosion of the internet. The possibilities are endless for internet broadcasting and as long as the Supreme Court continues to protect the free speech of the internet, it will hold a trump card over regular broadcasting. As a fellow broadcaster I would enjoy seeing internet radio gain an audience, but I would also mourn the death of broadcast radio because of a shortsighted policy favoring corporate interests. I therefore urge you to allow unlicensed radio broadcasts up to 1KW as a means of continuing the use of public airwaves by the public.

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Thank You For Your Time

Jonathan Arking

CC: A7.A7(GTRISTAN,MPOWELL,HFURCHTG,SNES)

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