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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM
(LPFM) Broadcast Service

FCC RM-9242

Comments of **Andy Wolcott**

Where I live, in a rural valley town, there are around 1,200 people living in town and about 1,500 more on nearby mesas. There is a local licensed FM station, KVNF, however, this is a large station with a $210,000 annual budget and which reaches a listening audience of over 150,000 people through a series of translators. Since Paonia represents only 1% of its listenership, KVNF's coverage of town issues has become minimal.

Many here (including myself) dream of having a 10-watt FM radio station which will reach all of Paonia (an area of about three miles), focusing on the aspects of local life which have disappeared from KVNF, and giving us all a second choice for local radio. As things are now, to raise enough money to start an FCC-licensed 100-watt station would require all of KVNF's 700 Paonia members donating $35 per year for 6 years (and even if that were possible, as the years went by the costs would naturally increase). On the other hand, to reach all of Paonia would only require about 10 watts of power and an antenna placed about 50 feet in the air. This was discovered by KVNF when their main transmitter burned down in 1995 and they transmitted from the roof of the studio until a new tower was erected.

In situations like this, it would be right and proper for the FCC to provide an alternate form of licensing for FM broadcast stations. To serve more than just a few dozen people and in order to be financially viable, an LPFM station would have to be allowed to have at least one watt with an upper limit of around 50 watts, as is proposed for a Level 2 LPFM station in RM-9242.

I urge you to approve the Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM (LPFM) Broadcast Service (FCC RM-9242).

Sincerely, Andy Wolcott

Andy Wolcott
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