

BEFORE THE
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

In The Matter of

RM 9242

Petition for Rulemaking
Docket No. 9242 filed by
Roger Skinner proposing
LPFM service, amnesty for
pirate broadcasters, et., al.

RECEIVED
APR 27 1998
FCC MAIL ROOM

COMMENTS DUE BY: April 27, 1998

COMMENTS ON THE NOTICE OR PROPOSED RULE MAKING

COMMENTS OF:

AMERICAN COMMUNITY AM BROADCASTERS, INC.
POST OFFICE BOX 973
CENTRAL CITY, KENTUCKY 42330
502-754-1380

Submitted to FCC
April 24, 1998

Copy To:
Petitioner, Mr. Roger Skinner
6431 NW 65th Terrace
Pompano Beach, FL 33067

of Copies rec'd
CODE

029

INTRODUCTION

The American Community AM Broadcasters, is a trade organization representing approximately 200 AM radio stations which are licensed by the FCC. The organization was founded in early 1997. The purpose of American Community AM broadcasters (herein referred to as ACAMBA) is to represent the needs of AM broadcasters at a time when they are being "short-changed" by the revisions in the applicable broadcast rules and regulations made possible by the Telecom Act of 1996. AM Broadcasters have for at least the past 15 years been neglected and forced to operate at a substantial disadvantage in comparison to all other broadcast services, particularly FM stations. AM radio has served from the large number of new FM stations created by the docket 80-90 proceedings. AM radio has served by the AM stereo debacle in the early 1980's, and yes AM radio is suffering from the manner in which the AM expanded band proceedings are being implemented in the late 1990's.

The number of AM radio stations ceasing operation and permanently going off the air far outpaces that of all other broadcast services. By the end of 1997 the number of FM stations outnumbered AM radio stations by nearly 1,000.

ACAMBA is concerned that this current FCC Commission has failed to assign a RM number to a rulemaking petition it filed last August 13, 1997 proposing AM stations the right to use FM translators for fill-in service the same as is practiced in Alaska and Nashville, Tennessee and selected south Florida areas. The ACAMBA petition was filed some 8 months before the Skinner Petition RM 9242.

Since the ACAMBA petition does in many ways relate to what is proposed in RM 9242 in the use of FM spectrum. We believe the inaction of the FCC in the matter of the ACAMBA petition is unjust.

For the following reasons we oppose the RM-9242 petition:

1. RM 9242 as amended proposes amnesty for pirates. We oppose all thought for any amnesty for illegal broadcasters and urge the FCC to refuse amnesty proposals for pirates broadcasters.

2. No favoritism or special consideration should be granted illegal broadcasters. Illegal broadcasters should forever be prohibited from securing a FCC license.

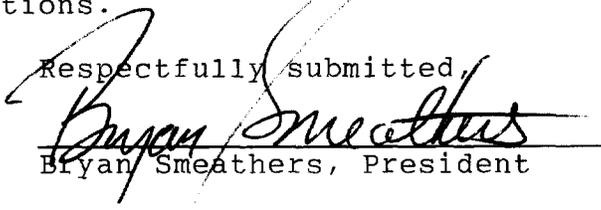
3. AM radio will feel the impacts on a competitive basis more than any other broadcast service, if LPFM is created and allowed to operate. AM radio is already at a significant disadvantage economically and can't take much more negative economical impact.

4. The ownership and eligibility proposals for LPFM in RM 9242 are un-American and contrary to the free enterprise system as well as the possible violation of portions of the US Constitution and individual state laws. For example designating where a owner(s) must live, how, when and for how much a LPFM owner can sell his station and to whom, etc.

CONCLUSION:

We oppose the RM 9242 in it's entirety as this will have a drastic effect on hundreds of smalltown AM radio stations.

Respectfully submitted,


Bryan Smeathers, President