

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Office of the Secretary
FCC, Room 222
1919 M Street, NW
Washington, DC 20554

April 23, 1998

RE: Petition RM-9242

To the Members of the Federal Communications Commission,

I encourage your acceptance of the rule change proposal to establish licensing procedures for low power stations such as KAW 88.9 FM, Lawrence Community Radio.

KAW Radio is an important and valuable resource for us in Kansas. As a professional artist, a resident of Lawrence for 28 years, and an active community member, I strongly value and support KAW Radio for many reasons. By presenting it's listeners with a broad range of topics and musical selections not otherwise available, and by an all volunteer effort, and supported solely by donations, diverse groups and individuals are brought together to form a networking system through a truly accessible community media.

During KAW Radio's first six months of broadcasting, over 600 local residents, guests and hosts have presented unique programing which give us opportunities to be entertained and to become more educated and informed about important local, national and global issues. The music that is aired is creatively varied, ranging from old favorites to obscure releases by little known musicians, as well as new releases and music by local groups that are not played on "Top 40" stations. As a visual artist, I personally appreciate "Art Talk", which provides a forum for art issues, interviews and events, helping to bring together the artists and our audience. Listeners can call the station with questions and comments. Public service and community volunteer opportunities as well as local events are announced.

Lawrence has a wealth of vital, active and talented artists, musicians, writers, educators, philosophers, environmentalists, political observers, health providers, and other members who are deeply committed to making our home town and beyond, a better place to live. KAW Radio is an effective and valuable vehicle for expression of our open flow of free thought, culture, creativity and original ideas, bringing together many dedicated individuals, groups, and businesses of Lawrence, and giving us a stronger sense of global community.

With over 13,000 requests from low power broadcasting stations for licensing to the FCC, it seems obvious that there is a real need in communities that is being filled by these stations, not otherwise satisfied by the big radio stations.

I urge you, the FCC, as an agency for us, the citizens and taxpayers, to preserve our freedom of speech, by accepting the rule change proposal which would establish licensing procedures for KAW 88.9 FM Radio and other low power stations. I believe that these small stations should be allowed to broadcast with minimal, but adequate power, not limited to one watt, on available air space, using a stable signal, and with a reasonable licensing fee, therefore upholding the Congressional Mandate to encourage the widest diversity of broadcasting, with the least amount of power necessary, at an affordable cost, and allowing access by citizens to exercise our right to express and impart information.

Sincerely,



Laurie Culling
800 Illinois Street
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