

4-22-98

To: Federal Communications Commission
Office of the Secretary
1919 'M' Street N.W.
Washington DC 20554

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APR 27 1998
FCC MAIL ROOM

From: Mr. Robert B. Tanner
P.O. Box 77
Rio Nido, CA 95471-0077

Members of the Commission;

This is in regards to RM 9208, the issue of 'neighborhood radio stations'.

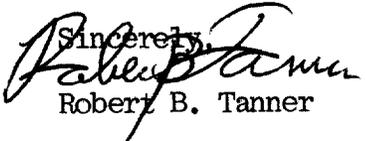
I am a radio listener from the Rio Nido area, a mountainous region west of Santa Rosa, California. I am concerned with the decline of radio over the past ten years. With the proliferation of huge corporate conglomerates buying out transmitter facilities, we listeners are losing the local element we used to take for granted.

As corporate interests buy and sell transmitter facilities, the cost of a frequency is now so expensive, there is no way a small business owner can own a radio station, especially in major metropolitan markets. I have noticed that radio facilities are being bought and sold, like they were real estate investments, especially in these 'edge' markets where profits are thin. The Commission needs to address this.

It is being suggested, and is being considered in RM 9208 to allow the operation of small, low power transmitters, run by small businesses and individuals, serving limited areas. With the decline of AM radio and rise of 'cookie cutter' program formats on FM radio, there is a need to introduce more diversity into radio.

There is also a need to accommodate small markets of ethnic peoples without taking up large transmitters that cover a wide area. an example is serving the Hmong people in Fresno. Their neighborhood is concentrated in the Southeastern part of town. Instead of trying to buy time on a large station for an hour or two, these people could have a small station geared to their interests and language that can be run at least all day. Such a station could be financed by Hmong businessmen and supported by the thin advertising revenue from local businesses catering to the community.

This is also true of types of formats that do not generate the high profits that overfinanced commercial radio now requires. We have lost classical, jazz and ethnic music programming on our airwaves, as a result. The only hope of hearing such programming again, is the establishment of small, low-power radio, run by dedicated broadcasters rather than corporate types that only look to the bottom line.

Sincerely,

Robert B. Tanner

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DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

OLIVER B. MERTZ
11907 Hitching Post Lane
North Bethesda, Maryland 20852

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April 26, 1998

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APR 27 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Ms. Magalie Roman Salas
Secretary, Federal Communications Commission
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: RM No. 9208

Dear Ms. Salas:

I am writing in response and in support of the *Petition for Rulemaking* Filed on February 20, 1998 regarding low power "community" radio stations, RM No. 9208. My interest in radio started when I would accompany my father to work at various radio stations. I am now in high school and want to explore broadcasting as a career. Unfortunately, at this time, my options are extremely limited.

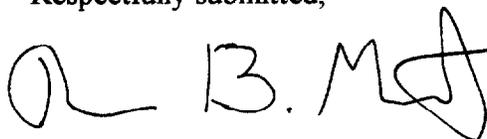
Changes in the Commission's regulations over the past 20 years have prevented the creation of new "10 watt" school radio stations. Also, consolidation of broadcast station ownership has reduced the number of opportunities for new broadcasters.

I live in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area. In this area, the technical regulations for non-commercial educational stations prevent the construction of even small non-commercial educational stations with the required minimal power level of 100 watts. With the larger stations devoting less or even no time to local areas, smaller stations with programming designed for neighborhoods are needed to fill the void.

I support the idea of low power broadcast stations aimed at providing programming to local areas. These small stations could act as a training ground for new broadcasters. Some of the low power stations can be home based providing activities for local citizens. The power of such stations should be sufficient to cover the neighborhood. School based radio stations would be limited in operating hours, where a neighborhood based station would be able to operate for extended hours when most people and students can listen.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this matter.

Respectfully submitted,



Oliver B. Mertz

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