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WFTG - AM WWEL - FM

F.T.G. Broadcasting, Inc.
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April 29, 1998

Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

RE: Reply Comments
FCC File Nos. RM-9208 and RM-9242

Dear Commissioners:

This letter is in reference to the commission's consideration of the licensing of new low power radio stations. As a corporate executive for a group which holds several community radio stations, I must say that I am deeply concerned about the prospect of the commission allowing additional low power stations to take the air. The main consideration in this issue for the commission should be whether or not these stations are needed and can they actually serve the public interest?

Through deregulation, the AM and FM bands have seen an onslaught of new stations taking the air. Quite frankly, this has diluted the quality of broadcasting and the licensing of additional stations has not proved to be in the public's best interest. Why then consider allowing additional stations to take the air and simply crowd the band? One of the primary directives of a broadcast station is to serve the public interest as a public trustee. To do this, a commercial licensee needs some market exclusivity in order to have a revenue base to fund their operations.

Operating a broadcast station takes a significant amount of capitol and revenue and the licensing of additional stations will put the future of legitimate stations who are actually serving the public interest in jeopardy. Keep in mind that all of our profits are not simply deposited into our bank accounts. Our revenue allows us to purchase and maintain equipment to stay in operation. It allows us to hire news directors to keep the public informed of local events. It gives us the ability to purchase weather receivers, radar screens, and other equipment needed for

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emergencies. For the majority of communities in the country, their local radio station is their source for information and their lifeline during emergencies. Additionally, by protecting the currently licensed stations the commission will ensure employment for many thousands of ***professional*** broadcasters, as well as allowing existing stations to be financially stable and contribute to the tax base and economies of their respective communities.

The AM and FM bands are overcrowded at the present. Licensing additional low power radio stations will simply serve to increase the effect of this problem, confuse listeners, and would be detrimental to the established community radio stations. But more importantly, it would undermine the current licensee's ability to serve the public interest, which they have been doing so effectively since KDKA took the air as the first commercial radio station early in this century. Community radio stations have been and always will be a vital,integral part of the communities in which they operate...provided they are afforded a reasonable amount of exclusivity within their communities. Don't jepordize existing stations and their ability to serve the public interest. After all, that is the purpose for our existance, it is our common goal. I am staunchly against the licensing of low power stations. If adopted this proposal will be a disservice to the public and put the commission in direct conflict with the directives which it is entrusted to protect and advance.

Respectfully,

J. Anthony Rosiek, Corporate Program Director, Key Broadcasting, Inc.

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102 So. Central, Cut Bank, Mt. 59427 (406) 873-2872
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April 27, 1998

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Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

Reference: FCC File # RM-9208 & RM-9242

Dear Sir,

In response to your request for comments: It is our position that the proposal to license thousands of new low-power stations would create total chaos in the industry, severely hurt present stations, and cause horrendous interference problems beyond comparison.

Local radio now serves the needs of its community, each with its own programs in hundreds of ways every week. We offer a one hour program each morning from 9AM to 10AM for <u>any</u> groups to use and hardly a day goes by when someone is not being interviewed by telephone or in the studio regarding programs they're involved with.

This, coupled with thousands of special announcements, news stories, and live sports means total service to the communities we serve.

We are constantly "Thanked" and recognized for outstanding community service. I have yet to hear one complaint from any minority or community group that they could not get adequate air-time or exposure.

It's the "pirate radio" operators who feel they can ignore congress, the FCC, and the court system who are pounding the drum to legitimize their illegal operation under the convenient smoke screen of community service.

Come on...let's not be hood-winked by that guise because it just doesn't hold water.

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To the contrary, consolidation of radio stations across the U.S. will result in a healthier broadcast industry which assures greater public service and high quality public affairs programs.

If your success depended on how well you serve the local community...wouldn't you do just that!

Sincerely,

Jerry Black

Jerry Black
President

CC: Senator Max Baucus
Senator Conrad Burns
Congressman Rick Hill

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MAY 5 1988
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APRIL 25, 1988

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
ROOM 222
1919 M STREET, N.W.
WASHINGTON, DC. 20554

RE: REPLY COMMENTS
FCC FILE NOS. RM 9208 AND RM 9242

DEAR COMMISSIONERS:

I AM WRITING AS A GENERAL MANAGER OF A COMMUNITY RADIO STATION, TO EXPRESS MY CONCERN OVER AN ISSUE PRESENTLY BEING REVIEWED BY THE COMMISSION, THE LICENSING OF NEW LOW POWER RADIO STATIONS.

I AM AGAINST THE LICENSING OF THESE STATIONS. THEY WILL ENCROACH ON THE SIGNALS OF STATIONS CURRENTLY LICENSED AND THAT INTERFERENCE WILL DISTURB THE LISTENER & CREATE UNDUE PROBLEMS FOR OUR LISTENING AUDIENCE.

MY STATION PROVIDES LOCAL SUPPORT TO EVERY LOCAL AUTHORITY, CHARITIES, & IS USED BY ALL THE CITIZENS FOR PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS. DURING THREATENING WEATHER, WE CONSTANTLY ARE SOUNDING THE ALARM BY WAY OF EAS & BROADCASTING TO THE PUBLIC. THE STATION IS ON THE AIR 24 HOURS A DAY & CAN BE REACHED ANY HOUR OF THE NIGHT BY WAY OF PHONE.

I RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT MY OPINION THAT COMMUNITY RADIO IS SERVING THE PURPOSE FOR WHICH IT WAS LICENSED AND THAT LOW POWER STATIONS ARE REDUNDANT AND WOULD BE INTRUSIVE TO QUALITY RADIO SERVICE.

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

FRANCES WILHOIT, G.M.

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