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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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April 23, 1998

William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Reply to micro radio station licensing petition (RM-9208)

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing in strong support of the petition for FCC to license low-power, low-cost AM and FM radio stations. I urge the FCC to proceed without delay in undertaking rulemaking on this matter.

I live in Takoma, a cohesive neighborhood in the District of Columbia. Our neighborhood would roughly constitute a "cell" as described in the proposal. A community-oriented radio station could serve several important purposes: (1) dissemination of public safety information quickly and accurately to all residents, (2) promotion of locally-owned businesses, (3) discussion of local issues, and (4) live or recorded performance of the arts, including music, drama, and poetry.

In the interest of giving voice to as many citizens as possible, I suggest that licenses be granted preferentially to community-based organizations. Some examples of appropriate organizations include neighborhood watch, community development organizations, school or library groups, and many others. In any event, licensees should be required to give air time to as many different individuals in the community as practicable.

Sincerely,



Michael Montopoli, MD, MPH

- cc.
- Commissioner Susan Ness
- Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
- Commissioner Michael Powell
- Commissioner Gloria Tristani

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