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RM-9242

From: Billy Little <poemz@mars.ark.com>
To: A4.A4(FCCINFO)
Date: 6/18/98 10:30pm
Subject: narrowcasting

Mr. Kennard,
I am writing as a supporter of micro-radio (i.e., less than 100-watt), and, as such, writing against the FCC policy of harassment regarding such stations. Micropower radio is an essential community-building tool, providing a local alternative to commercial stations, which display a minimal commitment to public service (a quote from New Englands regional FCC chief) - so much so, in fact, that its difficult to understand what public might mean in this context, save those willing to pay. The FCC must recognize - you must recognize, Mr. Kennard - the agencys and your own explicit commitment to maintaining publically-owned airwaves in the public interest - that is, with a view to supporting local communities - and not solely in terms of corporate (National Assoc. of Broadcasters) interest. At this time, between a limit to 100+ watt stations, and its exceedingly high licensing and engineering fees, the FCC is simply not fulfilling its promised role; further, in having deliberately adopted a policy of closure re community micropower stations, the FCC is actively countering its supposed agenda. The comparison, now frequent, of your agencys licensing policies with Englands Stamp Act and similar repressive measures enacted to protect the public - though actually a protection in service of other powers - is apt; and I must remind you that the guarantees given by our Bill of Rights were drafted in direct opposition to these measures.

Let me close by exhorting you earnestly to live up to your word, and to pursue the stated goals of the FCC. Micropower stations must be allowed to operate, and without harassment or the threat of closure; low wattage airspace must be opened to public use; finally, the FCC must adopt a reasonably scaled table of fees that takes into account the means of small communities in counterpoint to the wealth of broadcasting corporations. The airwaves belong to the public, and if administered they must be, they must be administered best to serve the public; to do otherwise is contrary to our stated rights to free speech, free assembly, and freedom of the press.

Thank you

billy little

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