

REPLY-COMMENTS ON RM-9242

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July 5, 1998

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

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FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Secretary,

I am writing to notify you and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) that I **SUPPORT** the FCC petition for rulemaking RM-9242 in its present form. The proposal, currently placed on Public Notice by the FCC, proposes the creation of a low-power (community) FM radio broadcast service.

I believe this type of service has been missing from the radio waves in the United States for a long time and especially since Congress' 1996 decision to loosen restrictions on the number of stations anyone could own. This has resulted in a handful of large out-of-town companies purchasing nearly 4,000 of the nation's 12,000 radio stations and has caused many stations to loose their local ties to the community they are supposed to serve.

For example, there is only one radio station licensed by the FCC for operation in the city of Upper Arlington, OH (the city I have lived in for 30 years). Upper Arlington has a population of approximately 35,000. Several years ago this station was owned by a local business. The station served the people of our city well and sponsored many local events and broadcast a public service program for the citizens of Upper Arlington. A few years ago, a large out-of-town (and out-of-state) corporation purchased this station and many other stations in our area. Soon after this occurred, the station's studios were moved out of the Upper Arlington area and 15 miles away in neighboring Columbus, OH. The new, large company that owned the station dropped sponsoring events in Upper Arlington and airing any public service programs for citizens of Upper Arlington. Essentially, the radio station cut its local ties to the community it should serve and the people of Upper Arlington are left without a community radio station.

The creation of a low-power FM broadcast service as proposed in RM-9242 would give ordinary people the ability to own and operate their own small radio station as a lucrative business, creating "small business" opportunities, which is the cornerstone of our great Nation. Also, ultra-local programming would give communities the long-overdue ability to reach out to their prospective audiences with information, news, entertainment, and programming that only grassroots broadcasters with local ties to the community can provide. Since RM-9242 proposes that these microstations have signals that reach under

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15 miles, they will serve only the community they are located in and won't significantly impact a full-power station's revenue or audience.

RM-9242 is good for America and I hope the FCC will implement and support it.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Roland P. Pagniano, Jr., DDS

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