

FCC MAIL ROOM

JUL 22 1998

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Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
Room 222
1919 M Street NW, Washington, DC 20554

July 20, 1998

**Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington DC 20554**

**In the Matter of
Proposal for Creation of Low Power FM (LPFM)
Broadcast Service**

FCC RM-9242

To: Federal Communications Commission

Reply-Comments of Charles D. Johnson, M.D.

When the FCC eliminated issuing class D radio licenses several years ago, which allowed for stations operating under 100 watts, this effectively eliminated legal community radio. It currently costs a minimum of \$100,000 to receive a license to broadcast from the FCC, thus turning free speech into a commodity, available only to those with considerable money.

This elimination of Class D permits has taken the public out of the broadcast system and made the public airwaves the exclusive (unless you happen to have \$100,000) resource of corporations. Small broadcasters have either been forced off the air or forced to operate illegally as "pirate" stations.

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I consider this a major loss sustained by the ordinary people of the United States, and this loss has been suffered at the hands of the FCC, which should be doing everything within its power to make broadcast space available to citizens willing to expend the considerable time and energy needed to make local radio a reality. Community radio can be a very important community facility. Good communication is critical to the growth and nourishment of vital community, which we desperately need in the nation.

Re-legalizing community radio would allow for micro broadcast stations of between one watt and 100 watts. This can be structured in ways which will not interfere with the rights of the large commercial broadcasters, who have already bought huge areas of the radio bands, frequencies which never should have been offered for sale in the first place.

I also urgently request that the FCC drop all charges and investigations or grant amnesty to all currently unlicensed community broadcasters out of respect for their important first amendment free speech activism.

One watt is totally inadequate for community radio. Owners should be required to live within 25 miles of the station which they own, and one person should be allowed to own only one station in this range of 1 to 100 watts. Low Power FM stations should be allowed to be operated for profit, but they must be required to provide local content.

Signed:



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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

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I Charles D. Johnson, M.D. do hereby certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing "Reply-Comment on RM-9242" was sent via first class mail this 20th of July, 1998 to the following parties:

Harry L. Baumann,
Executive Vice President & General Counsel,
National Association of Broadcasters,
1771 N Street NW, Washington DC 20036

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Richard R. Zaragoza, David D. Oxenford,
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Robert Mezer, Albert Shuldiner
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American Community AM Broadcasters, Inc. (ACAMBA)
Bryan Smeathers, President
PO Box 973, Central City, KY 42330

RM-9242 Petitioner, J. Rodger Skinner Jr., President
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Signed:



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