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Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington DC 20554

IN THE MATTER OF:

* Petition for a Microstation radio broadcast service — RM 9208
* Proposal for creation of Low Power FM Broadcast Service — RM 9242

July 23, 1998

National People's Campaign
813 S. 48th Street
Philadelphia Pa 19143
215/ 724-1618

* PUBLIC COMMENTS *

The interest of the National People's Campaign is not only in hearing news and commentary that is unavailable on existing broadcast outlets but also in participating in the delivery of such news and commentary. To these ends, we ask the FCC to adjust the Rule Making procedures and policies to OPEN UP the low-power fm services and the Micro Broadcast area to assure that balance exists on the airwaves between commercial interests and all others.

We support facilitation of the entry into PUBLIC broadcasting for low-income entities who wish to participate in issues of National Interest but are now, for reasons concerning money, excluded from the only effective means to communicate to mainstream audiences. Wealth, or lack of it, must NOT be determining factors in having access to the eyes and ears of fellow citizens. The Public Interest is NOT served by denying the MAJORITY of citizens, those WITHOUT commercial purposes for monopolizing the broadcast system, the right to comment or offer otherwise unavailable information.

We ask the FCC:

- To demand no fee from non-commercial microbroadcast entities that would prohibit broadcasting.
- To demand only license fees that are a percentage of income of Microbroadcast stations that allow advertising of small local businesses.
- To allow a Board of Microbroadcasters to decide on issues of multiple ownership, diversity, group ownership, etc.
- To use royalty payments from commercial broadcasters (on all FCC regulated airwaves) to pay for licensing for all.
- To demand revelation of economic links any regulators may have to commercial broadcasters, owners, advertisers or other related businesses and the recusal from decision-making position of any who may benefit economically and directly from denying Microbroadcast access to airwaves.

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- To note that current "Public" broadcast stations are almost all compromised gravely by the input from Commercial entities and that these "public" outlets are NOT possibly an alternative to Microbroadcasting because of this conflict. (Indeed, the tolerance of PRIVATE commercial interests being involved in PUBLIC broadcasting is a major reason for the growth of so-called "pirate" stations.)
- To note that the Public Interest is greatly served by Consumer activists, who seek forums on Microbroadcasting, in warning the Public about unsafe or overly costly products and by advising about safer, less costly products. The commercial stations do NOT have this Public interest in their agenda.
- To consider DECRIMINALIZATION of non-commercial "Pirates" and to limit concerns to areas involving radio interference. Any commercial "pirates", of course, would be evading payment to the Public of royalty fees and would rightly be of regulatory interest.
- To consider that commercial entities have a LONG history of hiding product defects, pollution problems, drug safety problems, illegal behavior in business, undue influence in government and many other things. The cost to the public of corporate level crimes is FIFTY TIMES higher than even the costs of individual, street-level crimes. The corporate dominated media have HUGE interest in HIDING such information and, therefore, ought to be obliged to now PROVE their benefit to the Public Interest in order to retain their positions in mainstream broadcasting. The truly non-commercial entities might be compared, in the areas of crimes, to the existing commercial broadcast powers.
- To remember that the United States is a REPRESENTATIVE, CONSTITUTIONAL DEMOCRACY. The broadcast airwaves do NOT, at this time, reflect any such principle but, instead, reflect exactly the OPPOSITE...the dominance of one small percent of the population (business interests) in the absolutely VITAL area of Social Communications. Worker's interests are grossly underrepresented, environmentalists' interests are not only underrepresented BUT attacked even though approximately 85% of the Public considers itself to be concerned about environmental issues. Many other areas can be cited and shown, by the record, to be absent from Public Airwaves due ONLY to efforts by commercial interests and regulators allied with those interests.

Thank you.

FOR THE NPC

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