From: Jared Arnold <jared@triax.com>
To: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("automated_activism@we-2.com")
Date: Fri, Nov 13, 1998 12:53 PM
Subject: Jared Arnold says Legalize Micro Radio

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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I urge you to support the legalization of micro radio.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has resulted in an unprecedented number of radio station mergers and buyouts, consolidating ownership into fewer and fewer hands. This bodes ill for our democracy.

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Currently, there are several proposals before the Federal Communications Commission which seek to rescind the FCC's 1979 ban on the licensing of low power radio stations of under 100 watts. In addition, one of these proposals mandates that micro station owners live in the communities they serve, expressly forbidding absentee ownership. I believe that locally owned stations stand a much better chance of giving voice to community concerns, and help to give women and people of color a voice on the airwaves.

These rulemaking proposals are running into stiff opposition from the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the professional lobbying arm of corporate-owned broadcast conglomerates, which has been stridently opposed to micro radio.

While the NAB cites signal interference as the reason for its opposition, there is little evidence that micro station signals interfere with commercial stations. What the NAB really fears is competition for listeners from community based stations that offer more than a bland diet of commercials, weather, traffic reports and market researched play lists.

I encourage you to support the legalization and licensing of micro radio stations up to 100 watts. This is a voice which the American people sorely need.

Sincerely,
Jared Arnold
Tigard, Oregon
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