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From: <wdhnorth@juno.com>
 To: K2DOM.K2PO1(WKENNARD)
 Date: Sat, Jan 30, 1999 2:56 PM
 Subject: Feds propose new low-cost radio stations:



Dear FCC Chairman Kennard:

I strongly urge the FCC to follow through on the proposal to license a low-power, low cost radio service for small towns and rural America. It is needed if all Americans are ever to know what is going on here.

I have been an accurate observer, as well as having a news clipping service, of news articles from many papers in Michigan and throughout the country-- from Arizona to Cleveland Ohio to Washington, D.C.

What is most evident is the dearth of real news in rural and smalltown weekly papers.

To compound the problem, many of our small papers are being swallowed up by larger corporate owned chains that have a pretty tight hold on what is news and what is not to be printed. Much of what we get today in hometown weeklies is not news. It is canned (time copy) propoganda designed to promote a particular "special interest" viewpoint.

I cannot stress too strongly the need for a non-partisan-- non special interest license for smalltown--rural areas that is designed for listeners who need some truth in broadcasting. The licensing could be accomplished through a new kind of arrangement whereby non-political-- non corporate owners would be responsible to citizen and FCC regulator representatives-- similar to the larger Public Radio outlets, who are doing a credible job today.

What you must do is to rely on citizen input-- those people who are serious about relaying reality to their listeners. I understand you have had over 13,000 inquiries from schools, and others wanting a low-power station. I would love to have one myself and will be applying for one if it is possible for me to do so.

I will be following up this E-Mail with a letter to FCC. I understand that larger stations have reservations about this. I can understand why. If representative government is to survive in America, then free and open airways for both large and small licensees will be a necessity in the future. If corporate financial power and political privilege cry "foul" that is all the more reason why you should take this new step.

I wish you well in this week's deliberations. You do have a choice. You can vote your conscience or you can listen to special interests.

How do I apply for one of these proposed licenses?

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