

From: Samuel Blankenship <samb@bethel.alaska.edu>
To: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("automated_activism@we-2.com")
Date: Wed, Jan 13, 1999 1:48 PM
Subject: Samuel Blankenship says Legalize Micro Radio

RM-9242

This email was generated by a visitor to AUTOMATED ACTIVISM, located at <http://www.we-2.com/popc/aa.html>.

 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.

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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,
 Samuel Blankenship
 Bethel Alaska
 samb@bethel.alaska.edu

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From: "Joseph D'Alessandro" <jdman@magpage.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(WKENNARD)
Date: Thu, Jan 14, 1999 5:15 PM
Subject: ?

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Dear Chairman Kennard:
Dear Commissionera:

When Being No. 1

Is Not Enough:

FCC Releases Advertising Study Which Reveals Tale of Two Systems;
Study Shows Broadcasters Serving the Minority Community Earn Less Per
Listener

- *FCC News Release
- *Statement of Chairman Kennard
- *Remarks of Commisioner Tristani
- *Synopsis of Study
- *Briefing Notes on Study
- *Other Statements

This is my Point,We play and teach about Black Afro American Teenage Music
of the 1950's.

No radio station will put us on the
air,for fear of losing,Advertiseing Dollars.
White Corporate America At Work

Here !!!!!!!!!!!!!

Thats why Olga and My Self want LPFM Radio Service,so we can Beat these
RACIST.

Date: January 14,1999
From: Mr.Joseph D'Alessandro
94 Angola Estates
Lewes,Delaware 19958
302-945-1554
Subject:Member # 8512 7568 1596 4858 ACLU

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RM 9242

From: Brett Reese <thgrinch@info2000.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(WKENNARD)
Date: Sat, Jan 9, 1999 9:26 PM
Subject: An Interesting Note

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An Interesting Little Note: January, 1999

My name is Brett Reese. I live in about as common and American town as you can get; Greeley, Colorado, population 50,000. I'm 29, married with a small child and an entrepreneur. Recently, I had an idea for a local radio talk show pertaining mostly to local issues like urban development and local church/pastoral interviews.

I knew there must be an outlet for local information. I didn't want the newspaper as my primary goal was involvement and a live communication with locals; guests to include the mayor, and pastors of most of the neighborhood churches

After checking in Ft. Collins a town of about 100,000, I soon learned I would have exactly the same results in my hometown of Greeley, 20 miles away.

Three stations serve our town. I soon discovered two were not even interested in talking with me because their *programming schedule* was music only. The last possibility for me was an AM newstalk station. I did get an interview with the program director. But here is what I heard, *You have a great idea for a show, unfortunately our programming time is filled with the Denver Broncos, the Colorado Rockies and nationally syndicated talk shows with Bruce Long and Dr. Laura Schlesinger.* The only local programs they aired were a swap shop, local announcements ROS, and a church service Sunday morning. But alas, *if you could find your own sponsors, generate local interest without our help, place some outdoor advertising and then let us run all our normally scheduled commercials within the program, and with about \$800 a month we could present that to management.*

I have prior ownership experience with radio ownership and I was not naive when I entered through the privileged doors of this commercial outlet, I was however surprised to hear the final reason he provided for his discouraging attitude. He explained that he currently had no less than *80 different ideas for a locally originated show* that individuals had already filed with him.

Two problems exist here which I believe Low Power Broadcasting would completely resolve:

1. There no longer exist outlets for the huge demand of local interaction and ideas which need to be shared in a personal and live way.
2. Dissimulation of local information on a wide local basis without unrelenting financial constrictions.

If you have questions or answers please email me. I realize there is BIG money set against lpfm.
 Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration,

Brett Reese

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From: Michael P Mayer <thewarrior@juno.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(WKENNARD)
Date: Mon, Jan 18, 1999 9:45 PM
Subject: Low-power Radio

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I would like to voice my support for your recent thoughts about low-power, local radio. I find it heartening to hear a person so high in government talk about opening the airwaves to it's rightful owners, the people. While I am not opposed to big bussiness owning radio stations, it has been my experience that that allows a media monopoly and thus requires that all media be filtered through corporate channels. What does this mean? Media censorship. While the government must go through official Constitutional channels to ensure that prevention of the spread of certain media is just, Corporations need not. This is a growing problem that is leading to the homoginization of media and the removal of any risky or controversial material. I ask you: Would the majority of baby-boomers if they would be the same if all the radio stations that first started to play Elvis were bought out by a corporate conglomerate that decided they couldn't keep up? Even scarier: Would you be the same if you lost your job because of corporate lobbyists? I urge you, along with your colleagues in Washington, to stop the media oligarchy and return equal control to the people.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Mayer
TheWarrior@juno.com

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Patrick Linstruth <patrick@qnet.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Tue, Jan 19, 1999 11:53 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

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Patrick Linstruth (patrick@qnet.com) writes:

Mr. Kennard,

I wish that you take a serious look at what's happen with the commercial FM broadcast industry. Many radio stations are turning to the retrasmision of satellite programming for a majority of their broadcasts. What's the difference between this and the operation of a translator? In my opinion, nothing.

We need to keep the production of our local radio stations' content just that, local.

Please issue an NPRM for localized broadcasting (LPFM) as soon as possible. Radio is part of our nations heritage. It was intended to serve the public interest. It now serves a handful of large corporations whos only goal is the bottom line. There's more to radio and squeezing out every penny possible. There needs to be commitment to the communities these stations serve. It's not anyone's right to own a station, it's a privilege. The ownership of the limited number of FM channels should be one of diversity.

With a 60 billion dollar government surplus, I urge you to fight the use of auctions to decide mutually exclusive commercial broadcast cases without first giving priority to first-time station owners.

Sincerely,

Patrick A. Linstruth
3843 Acorde Ave
Palmdale, CA 93550
(805) 947-6940

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 209.221.205.18
Remote IP address: 209.221.205.18

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pma9247

From: "The R.A. Brotherhood" <info@rabrotherhood.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(WKENNARD,SNESSE,MPOWELL,GTRISTAN),K2DOM...
Date: Wed, Jan 20, 1999 10:45 AM
Subject: FW: ARD Action: Get Low-Power, Save FCC

The following represents my opinion on microradio and the proposed weakening/dismantling of the FCC.

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Ken Dow
 3030 Suncrest Drive #405
 San Diego, CA 92116-1539

-----Original Message-----

From: radiodiversity@radparker.com [mailto:radiodiversity@radparker.com] On Behalf Of ard@radparker.com
Sent: Monday, January 18, 1999 9:05 AM
To: Radio Diversity
Subject: ARD Action: Get Low-Power, Save FCC

ARD Website: <http://radiodiversity.com>
 ARD URGES ALL AMERICANS TO WRITE THE FCC, ELECTED OFFICIALS
 Upcoming Meeting has Huge Potential Impact on Radio
 Support FCC and Low Power FM Broadcasting

Imagine that your well-to-do neighbor down the street borrowed your car- a long time ago. You rightfully own it (and perhaps even still make payments on it) but he hasn't returned it and you never get to use it. Your neighbor claims that he's using it for the greater good by giving people rides but somehow it's always the very wealthy people in the passenger seat and even when it's not he refuses to stop anywhere except The Gap and McDonalds. Forget about shopping at a locally-owned business! There are many days when you see your car not being utilized to it's full potential, but when you try to get it back the cops swoop down and stop you. When they look up the car in their database, they see a license and insurance registered to your neighbor and slap a big fat fine on YOU. You plead and argue and show your title-of-ownership on the vehicle but they only see the license from your wealthy neighbor and send you off with a stern warning to pay your fine promptly and to not try such things in the future. So you march off with your debt-inducing penalty while muttering under your breath, resigned to enjoying your vehicle through vision only. Sounds quite ridiculous, doesn't it?

Yet that's what each of us has done. As rightful owners of the public airwaves we've allowed only a few well-to-do neighbors of ours to acquire a license to broadcast-on our airwaves-and virtually shut us out of participation with our own property.

Now our participation is being threatened even further. Several comments have recently been made regarding the possible future dismantling of the Federal Communications Commission-the regulatory body of the airwaves. The FCC, even as beholden as it is to big business, is the agency that is charged with the task of making sure the airwaves are used for the public interest. While big money interests like the National Association of Broadcasters have more influence over the FCC than many would like, a weakening of the agency would only make a bad situation worse. Yet doing away with the FCC to give giant media corporations unfettered control of what we see and hear is exactly what some people are proposing.

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BROADCASTING AND CABLE magazine reported on several of the comments: The new Speaker to the House, Rep. J. Dennis Hastert (R-IL.), "has been an outspoken critic of the FCC, which he called a 'renegade agency.' As a recipient of large contributions from the local Bell companies, Rep. Hastert... will likely endorse a major restructuring of the FCC."

According to BROADCASTING AND CABLE, John Dingell (D-Mich.) "all but called for FCC Chairman William Kennard's resignation..." and FCC Chairman William Kennard "received his third scathing letter from Senate Commerce Committee Chairman John McCain (R-Ariz.) -- this time questioning the competence of the commission's public affairs staff. McCain also has written Kennard letters criticizing his plans to change the broadcast ownership rules."

It is certainly possible that the FCC and Kennard have come under attack for recently made speeches about the possibility of the FCC setting up microbroadcasting (low power broadcasting) and the importance of increasing minority ownership/representation in the airwaves. Sources tell us that such topics may be addressed at the FCC's January 28th meeting.

Kennard, favoring more diverse broadcasting, responded to above attacks by saying, "The public has a huge stake in the outcome of our decisions... I absolutely reject the notion that these decisions should be made by bureaucrats working in silence or talking only to lawyers, lobbyists, and corporate executives."

That stance is quite the opposite from what happened when the 1996 Telecommunications Act was drafted. That bill was basically written by the people it benefited most--the telecom industry executives and lobbyists! Why do you suppose you didn't hear about it until after Congress passed it into law? (Need more proof? See the publication "Corporate Media and the Threat to Democracy" by Robert W. McChesney on Seven Stories Press, 1997).

The Telecom Act is what has allowed the massive consolidation to occur in radio. Published reports show that over 44% of the nation's stations changed owners since the passing of the law and Excite News recently reported that 9 of the top 10 radio broadcasters (holding about 10% of all stations) held almost 50% of all radio revenue!

And since passage of the Telecom Act minority ownership in radio has dropped drastically. The National Telecommunications and Information Administration (NTIA) has published a Report on Minority Broadcast Ownership (online at: <http://www.ntia.doc.gov/opadhome/minown98/>) and the FCC has just released their Advertising Study that shows some alarming results.

http://www.fcc.gov/Bureaus/Mass_Media/News_Releases/1999/nrmm9001.html)

The study provided evidence that advertisers often exclude radio stations serving minority audiences from ad placements and pay them less than other stations when they are included. Among other things, it found that ninety-one percent (91%) of minority radio broadcasters responding to the survey indicated that they had experience with "no urban" dictates or "no Spanish" dictates: instructions from advertisers not to buy advertisements on their radio stations. Such actions reduced their revenues by an average of 63 percent!

A change is clearly needed to make our media more democratic and the FCC, with the public's help, can do just that. Indeed, Kennard even publicly stated that the FCC's agenda for 1999 includes the following points:

- * Preserve free, over-the-air broadcast services and ensure satellite coverage in underserved areas.
- * Open low-power radio frequencies for local use.
- * Promote the participation of people of all backgrounds in broadcasting and other communications media.

Americans for Radio Diversity believes in opening up low-power frequencies

for community-oriented broadcasting. Instead of requiring investments of \$100,000 to \$300,000 just to get a license, a complete low-power FM (LPFM) station could be set up for under \$2,000. Clearly this is more democratic as it is within the reach of the average citizen. And since LPFM might only use a 100-watt signal or less (compared to 100,000 watt commercial stations that cover most of a state) there would be MORE room on the dial for even more stations. Properly set-up and maintained, a low-power station can serve a community without interfering with pre-existing commercial stations. But all this won't happen if the FCC is dismantled. And it certainly won't happen unless the public voices their opinions. To make sure your voice is heard, take ten minutes and write a letter to your elected officials and to the FCC today. ARD would also really appreciate your efforts to cc: your letter to us as well.

Want to know even more about LPFM or microradio? CIVIL RIGHTS FORUM has a nice website and a good article entitled "Microradio Matters to All of Us" located at <http://www.civilrightsforum.org/micromap.htm> It is co-sponsored by the Media Access Project (<http://www.mediaaccess.org>) And of course the Americans for Radio Diversity website (<http://www.radiodiversity.com>) links to the latest news and information regarding radio.

CONTACTING ELECTED OFFICIALS

If you don't recall who all your elected officials are, zip on over to the PROJECT VOTE SMART web site at <http://www.vote-smart.org/> or call them up at 1-888-VOTE-SMART. You can easily find the names, numbers, email and addresses of all elected officials with Project Vote Smart.

CONTACTING THE FCC

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Chairman William Kennard: wkennard@fcc.gov
Commissioner Susan Ness: sness@fcc.gov
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth: hfurchtg@fcc.gov
Commissioner Michael Powell: mpowell@fcc.gov
Commissioner Gloria Tristani: gtristan@fcc.gov

To obtain information via telephone:
1-888-Call FCC (1-888-225-5322) Voice: toll-free
(202) 418-0200 Headquarters Voice: toll
(888) 835-5322 TTY: toll-free
(202) 418-2555 TTY: toll
(202) 418-0232 FAX
(202) 418-2830 FAX on Demand

Internet Addresses:
<http://www.fcc.gov>
<ftp://ftp.fcc.gov/pub/>

FCC's LPFM WEBPAGE

Visit the FCC's Low-Power FM (LPFM) webpage:
<http://www.fcc.gov/mmb/prd/lpfm/>
 And send them email at: lpfm@fcc.gov

Feel free to forward them a copy of this email if needed.

On a music-related note to musicians and management:
 You already know how difficult it can be to get your song played on the radio. Imagine the task of getting your song aired when you have a contract with a recording company that doesn't own any radio stations. Why would the stations play your song when they might already have another "acceptable" artist on their corporate-owned label? That scenario might not be far off if the FCC is dismantled and corporate interests are allowed even more control.

 We leave you with excerpts from a radio interview:

NPR Radio: As I understand it... to operate a radio station now you have to apply to the FCC, you have to have at least a 100-watt radio station, which is pretty powerful, and this costs millions of dollars to do.

Kennard: That's right, and one of the things that we are exploring at the FCC is whether we could shoehorn smaller frequencies into the existing FM band and create licensing opportunities...

NPR Radio: I know that the rule hasn't been approved yet, but... could I basically go out as an individual with my neighborhood friends and for a few hundred or a thousand dollars create a radio station with your permission?

Kennard: That would be the idea-to allow individuals and small companies who don't have the multi-million dollar resources to have access to the airwaves.

=====
 AMERICANS FOR RADIO DIVERSITY
 2355 Fairview Avenue #156
 Roseville, Minnesota 55113
<http://www.radiodiversity.com>
 email: ard@radparker.com
 phone/fax: 612-874-6521

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"Building Better Radio For Our Future!"

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If you have tips or information you'd like to pass on,
 send an email to: ard@radparker.com

CC: FCCMAIL.SMTPNLM("radiodiversity@radparker.com")

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From: Cindy Price <cprice@unionprivilege.org>
 To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
 Date: Tue, Dec 29, 1998 3:16 PM
 Subject: Comments to the Chairman

JAN 27 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Cindy Price (cprice@unionprivilege.org) writes:

Why Not Allowing Low-Power Radio Should Be Considered a Crime In Our Communities

Last May, a gunman wearing a ski mask robbed the small, Korean-owned corner market store across the street from my house, which is located on the edge of Capitol Hill's historic district in the Lincoln Park area of Washington, D.C.

On his way out, the robber grabbed a store customer as a hostage and held the gun to her head as a police officer, who just happened to be ticketing a nearby car, approached. The gunman then pushed the woman aside unharmed as he made his get-away down an alley with the officer in pursuit, firing at him as he ran.

The mid-day hold-up took place not only with a police officer patrolling less than a hundred yards away but also in full view of the captain of our neighborhood Orange Hat patrol team and several other neighborhood residents, who were out walking their dogs during their lunch breaks from work. It was the second time in less than a year that the storeowners had been robbed and terrorized at gunpoint. And it was one of many drug-related crimes that were increasingly plaguing the neighborhood.

Fortunately, the response from the D.C. police department was nearly instantaneous. Within minutes, police cruisers swarmed to the scene, a helicopter hovered overhead, and a suspect with a gunshot wound to the leg was arrested a few blocks away while trying to commit yet another robbery.

The reaction from neighborhood residents was swift, as well. News of the robbery spread first by word of mouth, then later in the day through the neighborhood watch group's e-mail newsletter and via community activists, as they delivered the area's locally delivered precinct newsletter on foot later that evening.

By the time I got home from work at 7 p.m., the robbery was the talk of the neighborhood. Residents stopped to chat about the crime while walking their dogs or their children in strollers, and neighbors also called each other at home or at work to spread the news. As I walked down the street, I saw several fellow neighbors standing outside their homes discussing the crime, and a few of them walked over to the corner market to express their outrage and concern to the store's owners, Mr. and Mrs. Choy.

"I'm just glad you're all right," I heard one market patron say to Mrs. Choy as she walked away with her purchase. "Me too," said another, as he stood in the market doorway, shaking his head.

I am fortunate I live in a tightknit neighborhood, where neighbors not only look out for one another but also rely on high-tech forms of communication, such as cell phones and e-mail, to combat crime.

Still, I cannot help but think how much more effective we would be as citizens and as a community if we had the added power of low-power radio in communicating with our fellow residents. If allowed to set up a neighborhood low-power radio station, we could instantaneously broadcast news regarding suspicious neighborhood activities and sudden jumps in crime, and keep residents updated about community meetings and other activities, as well.

Of course, we already communicate this information through e-mail to residents who have joined our neighborhood "PS109 Newsletter." The only problem is our audience is restricted to the more affluent residents who regularly use computers, either at home or at work.

We also post notices the old-fashioned way, on lampposts, walls and bulletin boards, but in such cases

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our audience is even more limited.

But just think of how all of this could change if we all tuned in for the day's neighborhood news at the same time every morning or evening. If allowed to use low-power radio, we would be able to get around the neighborhood communication gap and serve residents of all socioeconomic levels - and our community would grow closer as a result.

As a former editor of the National Association of Broadcasters' TV TODAY and RadioWeek newsletters, and as a freelance reporter who has covered consolidation in the radio industry extensively, I am quite familiar with the issues at hand. And I know why broadcasters might wish to stand in the way of neighborhood micro-broadcasts. The broadcasters argue that allowing such stations will cause them to lose advertisers and listeners. They worry that their already-dwindling audiences will become even more fragmented.

However, as an intelligent and informed citizen, I know that this is a bunch of bunk; the revenue and the audience-share broadcasters would stand to lose under such a scenario are both so miniscule as to not even be worth mentioning.

The only thing commercial broadcasters have to fear in the face of low-power radio competition is having their shortcomings exposed. And that fear is well warranted -- because if broadcasters were truly fulfilling their professed commitment to the communities they serve, then we as citizens would not have to devise alternative methods of communication. We would already have a local broadcast system in place to serve the whole community -- a community made up of real people, with real concerns and real needs, not the nameless, faceless audience numbers that Arbitron reports to money-hungry stations and their advertisers.

As a citizen, I would like to see low-power radio stations permitted to operate for two reasons: first, because I think they would further strengthen and unite the communities they serve; and second, because they would spur commercial broadcasters to wholeheartedly compete in a more community-directed manner.

Okay, so Chandler Communications doesn't like the fact that with low-power radio, Capitol Hill residents are getting their local crime report every night at 7 p.m.? Well then, let Chandler's executives come up with a format for the same time slot that is designed to compete with the supposed airwaves "infringement."

In the meantime, I will be powering up my PC and chatting with my neighbors through e-mail about the agenda for next Thursday night's community meeting. Or dialing the telephone and talking to fellow residents directly regarding what to do about the latest rash of neighborhood muggings. And meeting with them face-to-face - and strengthening the community -- as a result.

I am of the opinion that low-power micro radio stations are good for the neighborhood and for the nation. And I, along with my fellow residents, have so much confidence in low-power's ability to "empower" our community that we are asking the FCC to allow our neighborhood to serve as a model for the rest of the U.S.

So, what do you say, Chairman Kennard? Will you let a micro radio station operate in the shadow of our nation's Capitol? And give the local citizens a chance to erase the neighborhood's undeserved "Crime Capital of the World" nickname?

Please respond via e-mail if you're game -- and I will forward your message on to others in our neighborhood.

Thanks for your time.

Sincerely,

Cindy Price
228 = 12th St. SE
Washington, DC 20003

202-293-5330 - work
202-544-8664 - home

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 12.4.20.99
Remote IP address: 12.4.20.99