

Senator Ben Nighthorse Campbell
380 Russell
Washington DC 20515

December 3, 1998

Dear Senator:

I am writing to urge your support for an issue that affects all Americans, but especially those of us in the rural areas, and in our case, rural Colorado. This December, the Federal Communications Commission will consider three rule making proposals to license Low Power FM radio stations (these are: RM 9208, 9242 and 9246). Until the late 1970's, the FCC licensed stations under 100 watts, giving a voice to smaller communities and schools, to the less affluent groups, and to those with no commercial prospects driving their desire to broadcast. But due to lobbying by big-monied broadcast interests, Low Power licensing was discontinued, largely to eliminate audience competition and provide a base for a more potentially unified listener (consumer) "market".

With the recent unprecedented consolidation of broadcast ownership, homogenization has resulted, with the concomitant reduction in ownership of media by minorities, small communities and independent owners. Without an expedient and inexpensive means to license low power (less than 100 watts), non-commercial radio, many Americans, and their particular and special points of view, arts, music and local news will have no voice in what should be the public's airspace, NOT the highest bidder's. The chairman of the FCC, William Kennard, is on record supporting some form of Low Power FM, citing specifically the recent decline in minority ownership of broadcast outlets.

As elected officials of a state that is largely rural, with vast areas of low incomes (but of strong wills and creativity!) I urge you to join a groundswell of support for this truly democratic form of communication. Please let the FCC know that you support readily accessible, non-commercial Low Power FM, and that they should move to accept one of the current proposals before them this December. If the broadcast industry (who oppose such licenses) is scared of potential competition, it is proof that ordinary people with ordinary funds are more in touch with what the public wants. Government should never be an obstacle to their voices being heard.

Thank you for your time.



Mark D. Minor
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Salida, CO 81201

RM

9208

9242

9246

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cc:

FCC Commissioners:

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Michael Powell

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