

To the FCC:

I am writing to express support for the FCC's new proposed rules for licensing low-power FM radio stations.

I am an author specializing in travel and music; my books include "Unknown Legends of Rock'n'Roll" (Miller Freeman), "The Rough Guide to Seattle" (Penguin), and the forthcoming "Music USA" (Penguin). I am also a senior editor for the All Music Guide reference book series and database, which is the largest on-line database of music information on the Internet.

As a music journalist and historian, I have found exposure to the music and public affairs broadcast by low-power stations on the left end of the FM dial to be invaluable to my work. I believe that opening the airwaves to low-power FM radio stations will do a great deal to increase the diversity and quality of programming available throughout the United States.

While researching my book "Music USA" in 1998, I drove throughout the United States, listening to radio stations in many states. The programming I heard confirmed my belief that there is too much homogeneity on the airwaves, and that room is needed for a much greater variety of music and perspectives. At times the choices were so limited that I could find nothing on the air of interest. Granting licenses for low-power stations will do a great deal to improve this situation, and to entertain and educate listeners of all kinds and regions.

I urge the FCC to adopt new regulations that will allow low-power stations throughout the United States to maximize the potential of radio programming in this country.

Sincerely,

Richie Unterberger
PO Box 170694
San Francisco, CA 94117
415-661-6131
richieu@sirius.com