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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

In The Matter of)
 Creation of a Low) MM Docket No. 99-25
 Power Radio Service)
 Comments Of:)
 Mr. Ronnie V. Miller)
 17841 South St. Hwy. 123)
 Seguin, Texas 78155-0851)

SUMMARY

I am very much in favor of the creation of the type of service proposed in the Notice of Proposed Rule making. The service would fill a long-felt need, especially in small communities. The service as detailed in the NPRM would be quite adequate, however I urge the Commission to include the "micro-radio" provision it is considering. This class of station would be all that is needed to fill the need in many isolated communities and rural areas, and would make LPFM available to many more people in the large population centers as well.

With these comments I hope to provide guidance in some of the areas where the Commission is seeking input. Although I cannot provide detailed Engineering data, I hope some practical field experience in the areas of interference to existing stations, and on the possible conflict with IBOC digital radio will be of use to you.

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(I) Preface to Comments

1. First, I wish to emphasize to the Commission that a majority of those who see the need for a low cost, low power radio broadcast service probably do not have the technical and legal expertise, experience, time for research, and certainly not the financial resources, available to the broadcasters who are in such strong opposition to the introduction of this new service. Therefore my comments, and no doubt those of some others, may not address the issues on which the Commission seeks input in the detail that is deserved. This in no way diminishes the need to establish the service. I trust that the Commission realizes this and will take it into consideration as it digests all comments, both pro and con in this matter.

2. Though all the issues raised in MM 99-25 deserve detailed attention, I intend to only address those in which I feel my experience may be helpful in the decision making process.

(II) General Issues on LPFM

Microstations would fill a unique need:

3. I strongly urge the Commission to include the microstation class of license in LPFM. From this category will come "new life" into radio as a whole. This extremely low cost way to broadcast would be used by many young individuals to satisfy their desire to experiment with radio broadcasting. Individuals so inclined have often gone on to

life-long careers in the broadcasting fields. Further, this class would be sufficient for covering many small and isolated communities with a local radio voice for all types of yet unrealized services not available from the full power signals which penetrate the area.

Commercial/Non-Commercial status (Ref NPRM par 69):

4. As suggested by the Commission, LP-1000 stations could be an "entry method" into broadcasting unavailable today because of consolidation and other factors. This seems an excellent solution to this problem. They should be allowed to operate as commercial stations. Since they would have sufficient range to operate in direct competition with existing full service stations, they should be subject to most regulations for current broadcasters. This would mean that applicants would be subject to bidding in situations of mutual exclusivity. This does not seem inappropriate for this class of station, considering its' Primary status and purposes.

5. I feel the non-commercial status of channels 201-220 should be maintained for LPFM stations assigned in this range. There is no need to complicate matters with this issue at this time. Hopefully, non-commercial groups and entities will continue to operate here, allowing individually owned LPFM non-commercial stations to use channels 221-300. (Ref. NPRM par. 18, 19)

6. Concerning the LP-100 and microstations, I feel that the main purpose of these stations should not be to provide a cheap way to get into commercial radio, but rather provide a way for our very

diversified society to experiment, express itself, and fill niche needs. This also provides a simple way for the Commission to resolve the situations of mutual exclusivity by a simple lottery.

7. If LP-100 and microstations are allowed to compete with full power broadcasters for revenue, the original intent of setting up these stations is likely to get lost in an effort to turn them into "money machines". Let us compare to Low Power Television where the Commission was swamped with 37,000 applications and even today only a fraction of that number are on the air. Obviously there were a very large number of applicants who weren't really serious about operating an LPTV station. They only applied for the license with the thought that it might become valuable in the future. They didn't want to miss an opportunity for possible quick financial gain.

8. I fear even a greater occurrence of this situation if the LP-100 and microstations are allowed to operate as commercial operations (a cheap way to directly compete with commercial radio). Many will look upon on this as "too good of an opportunity to pass up." Many thousands would apply, with only possible quick financial reward in mind. This not only wastes a lot of the Commission's time, but it prevents those who truly would like to use the new service in the manner and spirit in which it was set up, from doing so in a timely way.

9. I suggest that the intent of the low power of these classes of stations should be to provide a way for those interested primarily in

filling a niche need, or experimenting with formats and information not presently available, to get on the air. Those with this intent should not be forced to compete with others wishing to find a low cost way to enter the very profitable world of commercial radio. Those interested in entering radio "for-profit" should use the LP-1000 class, where the coverage area of the station makes commercial operation viable. The LP-100 and micro-stations will no doubt be set up and manned by volunteer staffs for the most part. Limiting LP-100 and microstations to non-commercial status will help insure that they attract mostly those interested in operating them with the goals of creativity, and experimenting with new ways to meet public needs as described in the original Leggett proposal. Many who build and operate these stations will no doubt eventually move on to get involved with LP-1000 or full power radio broadcast. LP-100 and microradio can be good experience and training.

10. It should be clear that the potentially positive results of LP-100 and microstations could easily be negated if these stations were built and operated with financial gain as the primary goal. To insure optimum benefit from these two lower classes of station, a clear distinction should always be maintained between them and commercial radio.

(III) Power Levels

11. I ask the Commission to consider the power levels of the three classes of stations be set at 500, 50, and 5 Watts respectively.

This small decrease from suggested levels wouldn't have a great impact on the intended purpose of each class, but might make it possible for a few more stations to come on the air in the larger population centers. In fact, the lower ERP levels might help discourage those with only a "money machine" attitude towards LPFM. This small decrease would not in any way change the usefulness of LPFM to the rural and isolated communities either. (Ref. NPRM par. 26)

(IV) Distance Separation Between Stations

12. Station separation is sufficient for limiting interference (More on this in section VIII below). Setting up a complex contour system would complicate matters and is unnecessary at these low power levels. Experience with LPTV should reinforce my contention that it is simply not worth the time and effort. (Ref. NPRM par. 40, 41)

13. In the interest of making more channels available for LPFM I feel that the LP-100 stations should be allowed to use channels where they could be expected to receive interference from other stations in a portion of their 1mv/m contour. From data in the NPRM it seems this could make a significant difference in channel availability in crowded areas. (Ref. NPRM par. 32)

(V) LPFM Emissions and Bandwidth

14. A number of years ago, in an effort to reduce interference on the AM band, the FCC established a strict bandwidth limits mask for

all AM stations. The results were less interference, and in fact many local stations sounded much better after the change was implemented. If enhanced limits were placed on existing signals in the FM band today the results would be similar. No existing station would suffer any loss of listeners, and many stations would sound cleaner. In a misguided effort to "sound loud", over-deviation has become a much too common violation of the rules on the FM band today. If tighter bandwidth limits are adopted and the commission makes clear it's intention to enforce them, stations will comply (as did the AM stations), LPFM can co-exist, and the public will ultimately be the beneficiary of both changes. (Ref. NPRM par. 52 to 56)

15. If the same bandwidth standards are applied to full power and LPFM stations and both comply with the limits, no interference to existing stations will result from LPFM (more on this in section VIII). I do not feel that any additional tightening of bandwidth limits for the LPFM stations would be necessary. The type-accepted transmitters ultimately approved for use at LPFM stations should have built-in limiter circuitry to guarantee compliance with the bandwidth limits established. No modulation monitor would then be needed, this cost savings covering the increase in cost of the transmitter for the built-in limiting ability. (Ref. NPRM par. 51)

16. LP-1000 stations should be allowed subcarrier use similar to full power stations. Except for stereo, subcarriers are unnecessary for LP-100 and microstations. If stereo is authorized for LP-100 and microstations, the transmitters must be designed to automatically

provide correct subcarrier injection levels and other related technical parameters.

(VI) Programming Limits

17. There should be limits on the amount of non-locally produced programming, and on networking allowed to LPFM stations. I agree that experimentation should be encouraged in all forms. However (if networks of LPFM stations develop) it is unlikely that a string of "automated" LPFM stations would provide anything new to the dial that isn't already available on some full power station network feed or syndicated service today. LPFM stations should be restricted to primarily providing locally generated programming, as this is the need for which the service is primarily being created. I would suggest a limit of no more than 20% of networking and non-locally produced programming in any seven day period. (Ref. NPRM par. 68)

(VII) Impact on In-Band On-Channel (IBOC) Digital Radio

18. One does not have to be a technical expert on the various schemes being developed to provide a way to combine digital audio with the existing analog modulation of either AM or FM stations to know that it will not be done without using more spectral bandwidth. Indeed, in their comments opposing the original proposals for low power broadcast systems, the NAB argued that low power radio would impact implementation of IBOC by taking up spectrum space needed for the new digital data. From studying data available in Radio World on

the IBOC system proposed by USADR I have reached the following conclusions:

- With the information available today, it is very likely that any method of multiplexing the digital information with the existing sidebands of analog AM or FM modulation has the potential to noticeably degrade reception on existing broadcast receivers.
- It is not in the best interest of full power broadcast stations or to the public to implement any system which could degrade reception of the current analog AM and FM transmissions on the many millions of existing receivers. The public will not look favorably on any degradation of what they are accustomed to hearing.
- Unless the average citizen can perceive a many-fold improvement in sound quality when comparing one system to another, the public is not likely to create a demand for the change.
- There seems to be reason to question whether the primary coverage range of digital audio can be made as reliable as the current analog reception range, without increasing the risk of degrading analog reception when operating in the hybrid mode.
- In order to provide a multi-fold increase in the quality of the recovered audio, any digital audio transmission by radio will require a great deal of spectral bandwidth (more than is practical on the AM band for sure, and also in the existing FM channels).
- Canada and European governing bodies have correctly concluded that attempting to devise a "compatible" system of the old and the new technologies is not in the best interest of the public, and the

broadcast industry. This decision was no doubt given much study, and we should not dismiss it lightly.

- Any IBOC system will be a compromise to both the existing analog modulation and the new digital audio. The end result will be apathy by the general public, and ultimately disappointment by the broadcast industry (as was AM-Stereo).
- In order for digital radio to be the technical advance that we all want it to be, efforts should be placed in finding UHF or microwave spectrum where it's advantages can be realized to the maximum. Though difficult as this might be, it is far more practical than pursuing IBOC. The US broadcast industry will not be well-served by a compromise system, incompatible with, and inferior to EUREKA 147.
- Advances during the last decade have made practical the utilization of radio frequencies above 500Mhz and up as high as 10Ghz in many small, extremely low cost devices. The radio broadcast industry should not ignore these advances, but rather embrace and encourage them.
- IBOC has the potential to tarnish the record of the Commission with regard to maintaining the integrity of the radio spectrum.

(VIII) Interference Concerns if 2nd and 3rd Adjacent Channel

Protection Limits are Relaxed:

19. I believe there is hard evidence available to support the contention that relaxing these limits is safe. The phenomena known as "tropospheric ducting" in the lower levels of the atmosphere causes VHF and UHF signals to be propagated at great strength far beyond the

normal distances expected. This is very common during the Spring, Summer and Fall months over much of the continental US, and is particularly pronounced here in Texas. The phenomena often causes stations from Houston, Waco, Dallas - Ft. Worth, Corpus Christi, and other areas to fill up all the 1st and 2nd adjacent channels to the local San Antonio and Austin area stations. Modern FM receivers handle this situation very well. In fact, even with strong co-channel signals, because of the "capture effect" (whereby the stronger of the two signals completely suppresses the other in the receiver's IF stages) it has been my experience that there is usually minimal or no degradation of reception in the primary coverage areas, and often well past this point. The conclusion is that with the existing standards for FM broadcasting, and existing receiver designs in the hands of the public today, tropospheric propagation causes little problem within primary coverage areas for most stations.

20. The introduction of LPFM signals would produce a situation no worse than that resulting from such tropospheric ducting. The minimum distance separation values in Appendix B of the NPRM for co-channel and 1st adj. channel should be quite adequate. Existing receivers should have no problem, and full power stations should have no concern for interference from LPFM stations. (Ref NPRM par 40 - 49)

21. However, in the reports recently published in Radio World on the USADR proposal for an IBOC standard, USADR does not address how their system would be affected by tropospheric ducting. To my knowledge no practical data is available on degradation of local

analog reception on existing FM receivers when strong 1st adjacent channel digital signals (extending out as far as 200Khz from center-channel) propagate into another stations primary coverage area via this method. ANY system whereby digital sidebands are added to the existing analog signals (increasing bandwidth beyond +/- 75 Khz), and then propagated via tropospheric ducting far beyond their predicted primary coverage area should be thoroughly investigated to determine effect to reception on existing FM receivers. (Ref. NPRM Appendix C)

22. A far better solution would be to follow the lead of other governments who have adopted EUREKA-147, and move digital radio into spectrum far more suitable for a digital-only transmission mode.

(IX) Where to put Digital Radio (a "Win-Win" situation):

23. Since IBOC is a critical issue in this rule making process, I offer these additional thoughts on the subject.

24. With respect to the issue of where this new spectrum for digital radio could be found in the U.S. I offer some ideas which I hope the Commission (and other users of the RF spectrum) will seriously consider.

25. Many years ago, long before technology had advanced anywhere near where it is today, large chunks of microwave spectrum were allocated to the Amateur service. In those days when Amateurs were largely experimentally inclined, and technically competent, this made good sense. It was hoped that the Amateurs would help develop ways to

make use of these frequencies. The time has come to face the fact that we now have the technology to put frequency bands above 1000Mhz to very good use for all of our society.

26. On the other hand, many users of spectrum from 2 Mhz to 30 Mhz (and even 30 to 50 Mhz) have moved to VHF, UHF, and microwave frequencies as technology advanced. This has left under-utilized some of the lower frequencies. A very good example are the old "marine radio" channels between 2 and 3 Mhz. A little time spent monitoring frequencies such as 2638 Khz, 2738 Khz, 2830 Khz, and in particular the obsolete "marine radiotelephone operator" channels a little lower will show that these frequencies which were so vital in the 1950's and 1960's lie mostly silent and unused today.

27. Since Amateur radio has evolved from a largely technically oriented group to one more focused on communication skills, it seems logical to shift frequency assignments such that everyone benefits. I ask the Commission (and the American Radio Relay League) to consider some sort of "trade", whereby some of the Amateur frequency assignments above 1000 Mhz be re-assigned for things such as EUREKA-147 digital broadcasting and, in return Amateurs pick up more lower frequency spectrum (such as between 2 and 3 Mhz in the example above) which is more suitable to their needs today. I am an Amateur myself, and have long thought such a re-allocation would be in everyone's best interest.

28. It is not necessary that the U.S. use the exact same frequency assignments as, say Canada, for terrestrial digital radio. It would be very simple for receiver manufacturers to provide a "band switch" to change from Canadian-147 to U.S.-147 for example. What is important is that the best standard possible be adopted for our ultimate transition to digital radio. I urge the Commission to resist pressure to adopt any IBOC system for digital radio, and look for spectrum for EUREKA-147. This way radio broadcasting can move into the digital age without any degradation of the very fine analog service available today. And, at the same time LPFM can be added to meet today's need. Digital radio should come, but only in a way that will make it the best technological advance that it possibly can be.

(X) Translators and Boosters:

29. The original intent of translators and boosters has been stretched and abused beyond all reason. These stations seem to serve mostly to stake claim to a frequency so that no one else can use it, and so a station can claim bigger numbers of listeners when they sell advertising. I live within the primary service area of many stations from San Antonio, Austin and other area towns. Despite this fact, in recent years translators have been built within range which bring in signals from Houston, and other areas. These translators never address any local need. I personally know of no one who ever listens to them.

30. In recent years there has been a sudden surge of translator construction all over the country, even near the larger population centers. This appears to be an effort by individuals and corporations to "occupy any available frequency." This practice limits competition, and is a distinct threat to the diversity that LPFM could bring to the radio dial. Although it may already be too late in some areas, the Commission should issue an immediate freeze on all translator/booster applications until the LPFM issue is finalized. (Ref NPRM par 50)

31. It is possible that many of these translators were built in anticipation of a possible future rule change that would allow them to originate local programming; a sort of LPFM service similar to that of this NPRM. Existing translators and boosters should not be grandfathered to protect LPFM. If Low Power radio is important enough to be created at all, it surely is important to make every effort possible to make room for it. Of course, all LPFM stations must be prohibited from operating translators or boosters also. (Ref. NPRM par 29, 36, 50)

(XI) Ownership Requirements:

32. Although I do feel that the goals of local community service could be better insured if local ownership was a requirement, it is possible other factors will make it a reality. For the LP-100 and microstations, the very limited service area alone should (but may not) discourage abuse. In the case of the LP-1000 stations however,

it seems imperative that the commission find some way to prevent LPFM from becoming just another national conglomerate. If a way cannot be found to limit the number of LPFM stations one person or group can own or operate, we may be just as well off without it. The 1996 Communications Act stifles competition so severely that, by itself, it created the need for LPFM. Although I do not have the legal expertise to offer a solution here, I urge the Commission to find a way to limit ownership nationally to no more than three stations of any class.

33. Those with ownership or operational involvement in any existing broadcast operation (radio, TV, cable system, satellite service, etc.) should be excluded from owning or operating any LPFM station. AM station licensees should not be permitted to relinquish their license in order to apply for any class of LPFM license unless there were no other applicants for the LPFM service in their city of license. Concerning newspapers and other non-broadcast mass media, it seems reasonable to allow involvement with LPFM only in small towns and communities. In my opinion, there is no justification for large city newspapers to operate LPFM stations. (Ref. NPRM par 57 - 59)

34. Further, should the Commission find it necessary to allow multiple ownership, it would then be very necessary to put restriction on the sale of construction permits. The Commission should take every step possible to prevent the original intents and purposes for establishing low power radio from being distorted, and LPFM becoming more of what we already have today. (Ref. NPRM par 86)

(XII) Methods of Filing for a LPFM License:

35. The Internet is imperfect, but it is far better than any other method available today for the purpose of filing LPFM applications:

- The ability to use the electronic filing system to search for, or confirm an available channel in your area would be a great advantage. This is not so important in the case of LP-1000 applicants, where it is assumed applicants will be prepared to expend more resources up front to build their station. However for the LP-100 and microstation applicants (with minimal experience and resources) the ability of the Commission to provide this information would be a valuable aid in helping to implement LPFM expeditiously.
- Though it would probably take up front effort from the Commission to set up the system so that it provides the maximum amount of information and help to the applicants, it would not be wasted. It seems logical that the system could be adapted and modified such that it could be used in future matters where the FCC must accept, make available, and process other types of data from the public.
- With filing windows even as short as three days it seems unlikely that even those with poor internet service could not find a way to get their application in.

36. Short filing windows (I suggest only 3 days) are the best choice, for these reasons:

- Minimizes number of applications to process at one time.
- Quicker response to each application after it is filed.
- Offers the best solution to limiting the occurrence of mutually exclusive applications.
- Should provide the quickest path for the roll-out of LPFM.

37. A one-time-only, first-come first-served process gives the edge to those with the maximum resources, and would frustrate those who were just as qualified (perhaps more so) to provide a service to the community but who found out about the possibility to do so too late. Further, considering the interest this new service is likely to create, this system clearly has the potential for creating a severe bottleneck at the FCC.

38. There is no perfect solution but the internet, with short filing windows, is the best available today.

(XIII) Specifics on Each Class of LPFM Station

1000-Watt Primary Service (LP-1000):

39. As envisioned by the Commission, this class of station should be an excellent way to open the door for those wishing to enter full service broadcasting today:

- The service should be Primary, and follow most of the rules and regulations applicable to other primary stations.

- Both commercial and non-commercial operation should be allowed.
- Since the LP-1000 stations will be an "entry level" step to full service broadcasting (and the potential for financial gain associated with that) it seems reasonable to allow competitive bidding for these licenses.
- Both a maximum and minimum ERP is appropriate. I ask that the levels of 500 and 250 watts respectfully, be considered however.
- LP-1000 stations (indeed all classes of LPFM stations) should not be allowed to build translators or boosters. Allowing LPFM stations to establish them would only exacerbate an already out of control situation.
- LP-1000 stations should be protected from all translator/booster interference. There should be no grandfathering.
- I do not feel that compliance with the Emergency Alert System (EAS) should be required, at least at the onset of the service. This might be necessary later, if it is found that a large number of LP-1000 stations take to the air.
- If permitted by current statutes, a suitable filing fee should be required, to discourage frivolous filing of applications.

100-Watt Secondary Service (LP-100):

40. This class (and the "microradio" stations) have the greatest potential of providing the widest range of new service to the public. They will fill a need that is not (and probably never will be) met by existing broadcasting stations. This can be assured by setting these two classes up with the greatest amount of freedom, and in the simplest form possible. In order to have this freedom from regulation

however, they must be limited such that they cannot be compared to (or considered in direct competition with) full power commercial broadcasters.

- As noted earlier, I ask the Commission to consider 50 watts maximum and 25 watts minimum ERP for this class of station. This would provide adequate range, allow more stations, and encourage those interested primarily in "for-profit" broadcasting to look to the LP-1000 class of station.
- Secondary status is very much preferred, to free the inexperienced applicants from as much regulation as possible. They should be primary with respect to microstations.
- LP-100 stations should be primary with respect to all future translators and boosters, and possibly existing ones located in areas where no frequencies are free for the introduction of LPFM. The creation of LPFM is far more important to the public than the extension of range of an existing full power station.
- Non-commercial status is preferable, again to discourage those with a "for profit only" mentality from dominating this new class of service. This also helps eliminate the requirements for competitive bids, which seems contrary to the defined purpose for establishing this service.
- Minimum operating hours should be very flexible. In some remote areas an hour or two a day may fulfill all the need. There should be a rule preventing total inactivity however. If a station is silent for, say six months, the license should be made available

for someone else. A large requirement for on-the-air time would probably result in poor programming quality, and less creativity.

- As with LP-1000 stations I feel that EAS equipment should not be required, at least initially. Of course, voluntary compliance would be acceptable. In the case of stations serving isolated areas, the operator might be required to monitor the nearest full service station and take whatever action seems appropriate for the particular situation (pass on information, or shut down after advising listeners where to tune).
- If permitted by current law, a non-refundable filing fee would be a good idea, again to discourage some from filing frivolous applications.

1-10 Watt Secondary "Microradio" Service:

41. I strongly urge the commission to include a microradio class of LPFM license. It is my belief that this class, by itself, could fill a large portion of the need for a low power radio service. It is through this class that young people will be given a way to satisfy their desire to experiment with broadcasting. Experience has shown that this often leads to life-long involvement within the field. Those who excel in any endeavor are often those who got involved at a very young age. Why not acknowledge this fact, and encourage it? The industry, and all of our society will ultimately benefit.

- The application process for this class should be simplified to the maximum possible degree.

- I suggest a maximum ERP limit of 5 watts (with the 30 meter maximum HAAT, and no minimum (as suggested by the Commission). A requirement for unity gain antennas seem appropriate here.
- Secondary status to all other FM stations is proper.
- Non-commercial status is preferred, mainly to allow a lottery to resolve any mutual exclusivity issues.
- Type-accepted transmitters with strict bandwidth and modulation limiting circuitry are a must here, because of the non-technically competent people who will often be the operators of these stations.
- The absolute minimum regulation and rules should be established for microstations. This to allow as much freedom as possible for experimentation, and to keep these inexperienced people from becoming "law breakers" as they experiment with new ways to use radio broadcasting. An attempt to over-regulate these simple, short range stations would be a waste of time for the Commission.
- Other than adherence to spacing requirements to all Primary stations as defined by the Commission, there should be no requirement for microstations to protect each other.
- Operating hours should not be controlled in any way.
- The term of the license for this class might be limited to two years, with renewal possible if there is no other applicant in waiting for the frequency.

Frequencies for Microstations:

42. The Commission might also consider the use of 87.9Mhz (available on all modern receivers in use today) for the microradio

stations. This would make more 88.1 to 107.9 frequencies available for LP-100 and LP-1000 stations. It would also make possible (at least in a large part of U.S.) something similar to the cellular-like service suggested in the Leggett proposal. In areas where a TV channel 6 exists, or areas where an FM station on 88.1 must be protected the microstations could compete with LP-100 stations for whatever frequencies are available. (Ref. NPRM par 16)

(XIV) Conclusion

43. It is a credit to the Commission that it has acknowledged the need for changes to the existing broadcasting rules to allow a low cost, short range radio broadcasting service. All the many uses to which such a service can be placed will only be known after it is established for some period of time. The potential seems almost limitless.

44. Unlike, Commissioner Furchtgott-Roth, I do not see LPFM as "...a severe incursion on the 'rights' of current license holders, as well as on the 'value of their licenses'.." (emphasis mine). Use of broadcasting frequencies is a **privilege** (not a right) extended primarily in the interest, convenience, and necessity of all of society, and secondarily a means for financial gain. One of the main reasons the Commission was established in the first place was to insure these principles remain in place. When there is an imbalance it is indeed proper, no less the duty of the FCC to become the advocate of change which will correct the imbalance. If the Commission is to

continue to be perceived as a fair and impartial decision maker it must not act in ways that appear to protect the interests of any one special interest group, and certainly not the wealthy and privileged. In matters of the use of the RF spectrum, who else can we turn to? More than many other Federal regulatory bodies, the Federal Communications Commission must be the representative of as many of the people as possible.

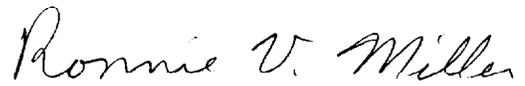
45. I want to thank Chairman Kennard, Commissioners Tristani, Ness, Powell, and others at the Commission for their vision in recognizing the potential good which can come from LPFM. Despite all the suggestion of impending doom from those in control of radio today, these Commissioners realize that full power radio will continue to thrive. In fact, LPFM may become the catalyst to cause it to find ways to improve itself.

46. Many would agree that the radio broadcasting industry today is suffering from lack of new and innovative ideas. AM stereo and "AMAX" were disappointments. The conversion of radio broadcast to the digital mode stands to be disappointing unless given much more thought. Most program formats today have existed for many years and are all very predictable. All change involves some risk, and rarely is change totally positive. As with all good things, some will abuse these new privileges. This cannot be allowed to prevent others from using low power to do good. Change often involves compromise. I believe that through compromise, the interests of existing broadcast stations can be protected at the same time a new way to use radio to

benefit the public interest is initiated. I have no doubt that LPFM will become a breath of fresh air in the world of broadcast radio. In my opinion, the benefits of establishing LPFM (especially in the widely spaced small communities in Texas and elsewhere) far outweigh any cost or risk.

47. The Commission has a long history of soliciting and considering input from all citizens on an equal basis while performing it's functions. I consider this a very valuable privilege not permitted by many other regulatory agencies. It speaks well for the Commission that this is so, and I greatly appreciate it. It is my sincere desire that my comments will be useful as you consider this matter.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ronnie V. Miller".

Ronnie V. Miller

(99-25com.wps)