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12 March 1999

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Federal Communications Commission
Attn: NPRM # FCC 99-6
445 12 Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554 (202) 418-0260

Re: NPRM # FCC 99-6, MM Docket # 99-25 & #95-25:

I urge you to adopt rules for licensing Low Power FM radio that prioritize the needs of under-served and under-financed communities. Your office has the power and the mandate to ensure that ordinary people can claim a piece of the pie that big corporations have dominated and controlled for years. I am confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, I urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. There should be completely non-commercial service. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate to the constituents and their neighbors, not to make a profit.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. NO secondary status should be allowed.
5. Microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines should receive amnesty, have their property returned, and be prioritized for new licenses.
6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
7. LPFM must be included in the future of digital radio.
8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of these vital issues.

Sincerely,

Ronald L. Perkins, Jr.

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