

I live in a community of 1800 in the Sierra Nevada. Our nearest radio stations are 35 and 50 miles away. They offer little if any local coverage pertaining to my town. I recently attempted to serve Portola with a Part 15 station that was very successful with community support and advertising support. We broadcast City Council meetings, school sports, emergency information and music. Unfortunately, in working with the FCC office in San Francisco, we found our Ramsey transmitter was not emitting the proper amount of power. Our signal in some areas reached slightly over a mile. Of course, we immediately stopped operations. However, it did demonstrate that coverage of 2-3 miles would serve a rural community like mine very well. Our signal did not interfere with any licensed station (we broadcast at 94.5 and the nearest licensed station was 93.3 at 50 miles). Your commissioners dissenting statement only refers to urban areas, I feel the strength of low powered stations would be in rural areas. Licensed stations spend large sums to cover vast areas with little audience and revenue. In doing so, they have trouble programming to each unique town. A low powered station like ours, was able to support itself financially, and give the residents excellent programming that truly pertained to them. I'm sure Portola is not alone in it's need for this sort of communication service. I urge the board to move forward with this much needed service.