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MAIL TO: P.O. Box 310, Beacon, NY 12508  
914/838-6000 FAX 914/838-2109

SHIP TO: 894 Route 52, Beacon, NY 12508

APR 18 1999  
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

April 5, 1999

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

In Regards to MM Docket No. 99-25.

Dear Chairman William Kennard:

The purpose of this letter is to formally express my views and comments in regard to Low Power FM that is being reviewed by your office. I am a twenty-one year veteran of Radio Broadcasting. I am an At-Large Member of the Radio Board of Directors of the National Association of Broadcasters and a Board Member of the Black Broadcasters Alliance. I am the current Chairman of the Human Resource Development Committee of the NAB.

In following closely the FCC's proposed LPFM initiative, I believe that not many broadcasters were consulted on the matter. As Executive Vice President of Pamal Broadcasting I am alarmed that this proposal is made without proper studies conducted on potential interference with existing stations. Furthermore, what impact will LPFM have on emerging technologies in regards to IBOC digital radio? I also question the impact it will have in those areas that it seems to want to serve. I am led to believe that in our state of New York, there will be no availability's in New York City. Could this be true?

I understand, or believe I understand your proposal as one designed to increase minority ownership and I am troubled by this. Why is it that minorities are given opportunities in such feeble attempts. Does the FCC really think that even a 1000 watt station will be competitive or economically rewarding against the big signals? This to me smacks of the same obstacles we have been facing and dealing with historically. Give the minority person the most difficult task and when he/she fails you can feel good that at least you tried.

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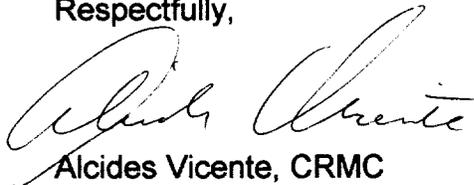


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In reading the trade publications, it seems that the FCC will not even be able to designate these licenses or steer them towards minorities. I foresee a bunch of well healed special interest groups getting these signals and in many cases they will turn them into bully pulpits to eschew the same rhetoric that the Pirates are now broadcasting. I see many of those Pirates being infuriated by not getting a signal and they will continue to broadcast thereby cluttering the airwaves even more.

Mr. Chairman, I have followed your tenure at the FCC closely and I truly believe you are a dedicated fighter for equality and diversity. I implore you to focus your initiatives into concrete proposals that will impact minority ownership and participation. Please bring back the tax certificate program. Continue to lobby the big boys of broadcasting such as Mel Karmazin and Lowry Mays into doing more deals with minority broadcasters and let's have an EEO plan that is legal and challenging. You have my support on these issues, but LPFM is a bad deal for all. Abandon this proposal and give us initiatives that will be meaningful.

Respectfully,



Alcides Vicente, CRMC  
Executive Vice President