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Before the
Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM
(LPFM) Broadcast Service
Docket No. MM 99-25

March 26, 1999

To: Federal Communications Commission

Comments of Rick Hughey

I would like to go on record as supporting the creation of a Low Power FM Class of radio station. I feel they should be able to be commercial as well as non-commercial supported. Local ownership rules must be included as part of this proposal, due to the fact that the two stations now licensed to our county have no content whatsoever about the local community. Both are robot stations, one rebroadcasts the signal of another of it's group stations, while the second station which was licensed to our county isn't even based here anymore, it's over 20 miles away. We are totally without a voice for local news, public service information, community affairs, etc.

Please don't go to an auction process to award these licenses. The local people who are seeking to serve their community won't be able to afford the process of buying off other bidders as is the case currently. Again I stress the local ownership aspect of this new service has to be maintained.

The 1000 Watt power limit would be perfect for our area as the county is only about 9 miles by 12 miles in size. The tower height of 60 meters that is proposed might need to be upped to 100 meters for primary service stations in some cases.

I commend the Commission on it's action to consider Low Power FM stations. Our country was founded by strong independent voices, and this move to allow the people of our communities to be heard, to bring them together is long overdue. These stations would create new jobs, and the advertising they would air would create demand for products from local stores. These stores would see growth, and invest more in their community, instead of continuing to see Main St. business disappear to the regional mall.

I hope you will hear the voice of the local communities when you are considering this proposal. I think it will come through loud and clear over the objections of the NAB and the large "group" owners who currently have a monopoly over radio broadcasting in this country. If local Low Power FM stations don't come to pass....I for one will start pushing to change the ownership limits, so one person or firm won't be able to hold a region hostage by controlling up to 8 broadcast outlets in a market. To serve the public interest is the theme we need, we are currently not getting it.

It is interesting that stories in two regional newspapers have recently made mention of community active radio stations. The first story was about a 19yr old who is visually impaired. This young man got interested in radio at age 14 and created a Part 15 operation low power station from his home, he now attends a regional Community College majoring in broadcasting, works at the college station, and produces a weekly show on a commercial station. He decided on his lifes' work at 14! In the other paper the columnist was remembering when radio first legally came to his community in 1947, but the bulk of the story was about 3 high school students who put a pirate station on the air in 1932. Building the transmitter themselves, they reached about 5 miles playing 78's of Cab Calloway and even covered the high school basketball games. One of the trio went on to get a degree from Carnegie Tech and Cornell in electrical engineering. They signed off using the song, "In a Dream". Imagine people, young and old, all across the country today who also have that dream. Please help them make it come true. Thank You for your time and consideration on this matter. Respectfully Submitted.

Rick Hughey

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