

As a citizen and participant in this democracy, I would like to add my voice to the growing chorus of support for low-power FM. Contrary to some opinions, money is not speech and wealth is not erudition: those who have need not be those who broadcast. Time and again in recent years, we have seen various media improve in terms of meaningful content and applicability to individuals' lives as the spectrum of providers has been expanded, cable TV and the internet being the notable examples. Why is radio different?

The short answer is, it isn't. The long answer is, it may provide problems for the big radio stations, not only in terms of interference but also in terms of listener drain. Perhaps I can't fathom the seriousness of a 10-watt station drowning out a 50,000-watt broadcaster, I suppose. But perhaps I've listened to too many industries whine and bleat every time a government agency proposes innovation. Somehow, I suspect the latter is the case.

Give the people a little bit of radio to play with. It will make a world of difference.

Many thanks,

Justin Rood
Beltsville, MD