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6 April 99

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. N.W.
Washington D.C. 20554

Comments on MM Docket 99-25
Low Power F.M.

I encourage you to allow low power F.M stations.

For much of my life I have been involved in radio. I starting with Amateur Radio in high school, worked my way through electrical engineering school as a broadcast engineer, and for several years had a contract broadcasting engineering business. Although I have not worked in broadcasting for a number of years (I am still in R.F., however), I still take some of the trades and follow the industry to a degree.

For some time I have felt that corporate ownership of the majority of stations, particularly more than one in a market, has removed broadcasting from community involvement. With few exceptions, it is now little more than a money machine pandering to the lowest level of interests. There is little creative or locally oriented programming. I remember the 'ascertainments' and public service requirements. I feel that the commission did a dis-service to the people of this country when they removed these requirements and started to issue 'licenses to print money' which allows the corporate broadcasters to monopolize a scarce public resource (the airwaves) with no responsibility to their community.

Any movement that has the potential to let small local owners and organizations provide a locally oriented or open minded programming is a good thing. The broadcasting corporations should be prevented from applying for any of the new low power licenses.

I am sure that the majority of the comments will come from the corporate broadcasters who will be strongly against low power F.M. After all, it is a threat to their stranglehold on the channels. Stand up to them for the good of the country.

I realize that it will be difficult to shoehorn in additional channels. Find a way at the expense of the corporate broadcasters who have gobbled up more than their fair share of the resources.

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It would be nice if the lowest power stations (100 watts and below) could have some relief from requirements for some of the expensive equipment which is now not as necessary as it was in the 1930s. Modern transmitters and audio processing (once properly set up) really don't require modulation and frequency monitor on site. These stations will be more 'labors of love' than money machines and it is unlikely that many will do well financially. They need the relief.

Thank you for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John Jackson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Jackson
17456 N. 60th Dr.
Glendale, Az 85308