

To whom it may concern: I wish to register my strong support for the FCC's proposal for the licensing of new low power (100 and 1000 watt) and microradio (1.5-10 watt) FM stations. As a longtime supporter and participant in non-commercial radio, both in the U.S. and New Zealand, I have been able to benefit in innumerable ways from access to community and educational radio: As a listener, I have been able to hear community news, independent music, commentary on a range of out-of-the-mainstream topics, and non-commercial broadcasting of all sorts. As a past station manager, programming director and on-air staff member of a low-power educational station, I found a wonderful learning experience in community relations, broadcasting technology and music. Citizens without access to college stations, especially the disadvantaged and minority, will gain huge benefits even from microwattage stations that reach only a few square blocks - they will become centers for community growth, points of interaction between separated groups, and instruments for positive social change.

I applaud the Commission for taking a bold step in favor of community and low-power FM radio, and urge the FCC to hold its ground in the face of an inevitable negative response from large, corporate media groups.