

Dear Sirs,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue. I STRONGLY support the licensing of new 1000 watt and 100 watt LPFM radio stations; I also STRONGLY support the licensing of new "microradio" stations in the 1-10 watt power range. I believe that allowing these new stations has the potential to enhance local communities and encourage diversity.

In many regions, the existing spectrum of programming -- particularly in the FM band -- is extremely narrow, in my opinion. The options for the listener are limited even further when one corporation can control several high power FM stations -- a situation which we endure here in San Diego. Matters are made even more problematic here due to the close presence of Mexico which effectively allows commercial stations to broadcast in the reserved non-commercial frequencies. The opportunities for diverse, public, non-commercial programming are thus extremely limited. Licensing new LPFM radio stations could remedy this situation.

I am confident that interference protection criteria (e.g., minimum distance separations, 1st or 2nd adjacent channel protection) would help to insure that any new low power FM radio service would not interfere with the technical integrity of existing radio services.

Also, it certainly makes sense to require the 1000 watt class of stations to follow most or all of the rules applicable to full-power broadcasters, but not to apply most radio station service rules to new 100 and 1-10 watt microradio stations. I tend to think that most of the new LPFM stations should be noncommercial and that educational institutions would be good potential LPFM licensees. However, I also think that community groups and even individuals should be able to seek a license and broadcast in the 100 or 1-10 watt range.

I think that the FCC should apply the same character qualifications to LPFM broadcasters that apply to full power broadcasters. Although I certainly do not condone "pirate radio," I think that illegal broadcasters who ceased operation after being advised of an enforcement action should certainly be eligible for LPFM licenses.

As an FCC licensed operator myself with little or no opportunity to get "on the air" in the current broadcasting climate, I look forward to implementation of these proposed rules as a tremendous boon to diversity, freedom of speech, freedom of expression, and freedom of choice in our local communities. In fact, I would be interested in starting a local LPFM radio station in the Ocean Beach or Pacific Beach region of San Diego in order to provide an opportunity for truly diverse, alternative, and community-oriented programming.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,
Brent C. McDonald