

To Whom it may concern:

The following is a comment on the FCC's proposed rulemaking of a low-power FM broadcast service.

With the passing of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, the broadcast industry has become consumed by a few, major companies controlling a great deal of the media in the United States. The new ownership rules have pushed the prices of radio stations beyond the reach of the average American, and nearly impossible to for private owners to compete with the gigantic group owners with incredible amounts of liquid cash.

In my humble opinion, radio should not be managed in this order. Diversity, locality, and community involvement is what the radio medium was built-on years back, and that has all but been tossed out the window in recent years.

If the FCC were to allow low-power, locally owned radio stations to broadcast in the United States, they would be doing the American people a great service! The infusion of local, community based radio would do nothing but create healthy competition in the radio market, allow greater diversity of programming, and force group owners to focus on providing a useful, public service to the areas they serve with their full-power stations.

I also would like to add, that, being an amateur radio operator, I believe low power radio licenses should be given out discriminately. Operators should have at least basic electronic skills, an understanding of broadcast techniques and programming skills, and should be required to pass a test - much like amateur radio operators must pass. This, I believe, will greatly improve the quality of low power broadcasts as well as promote responsible operating on the part of the station's owner.

Finally, I believe it would be extremely helpful to the low power broadcast community to allow stations to be either commercial or non-commercial. Again, this will help promote competition among all broadcasters, as well as allow low power station owners to generate income and provide jobs in the communities they serve.

Thank you for your time and I do hope you will create the Low Power FM Service.

Sincerely,

Jeremy Preece