

In comment to Proceeding No. 99-25, I am writing in favor of the FCC granting licenses for NON-COMMERCIAL low power FM radio (LPFM) as per the FCC's statutory obligation "to generally encourage the larger and more effective use of radio in the public interest."

To be truly in the public's interest, LPFM needs to be non-commercial, and the proposed system of auctioning off licenses to the highest bidder threatens the ability of typically under-represented groups within the community--and we all know how important the minority opinion is to a healthy, burgeoning democracy--to gain access to LPFM. It is important that FM radio be available to groups of all economic levels and backgrounds within the community.

In addition, I support that the new licensing system not exclude those who have previously come under FCC prosecution, as here in Seattle that would mean excluding many people who have tirelessly agitated for non-commercial, public radio that answers to the needs and interests of our citizens. While I may not be in total agreeance with their means, in principle I stand behind them, and therefore feel that it would be a genuine loss to the community if they were not able to participate in this new proving-ground for democracy and civil society.

Again, I voice support that LPFM be instituted, and be NON-COMMERCIAL.

Sincerely yours,

Douglas Bloch