

Congressional Support

Low Power FM Broadcasting

The Low Power FM Petition for Rulemaking
FCC RM-9242

LPFM Notice of Proposed Rulemaking FCC Community Broadcast
Service, For Woman, Blacks, and Minorities!

MM Docket 99-25

Dear Honorable Senators and Congressman:

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard FCC:

Here is a letter sent to FCC Chairman Kennard on March 16th from 28
Congressmen that
support LPFM. Fax this to your Congressman today and ask that they also
sign onto this letter by
contacting Rep. David E. Bonior of Michigan and we will send an addendum

with the additional
Congressional signatures! TIME IS OF THE ESSENCE.....To download this
letter in text format so
that you can print it out click Congress letter

The Congress of the United States House of Representatives
March 16, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman,
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are writing to commend the Commission for taking action on an
issue
of great
importance to us -- improving access to our airwaves for our local
communities. We
have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration
of
the media in
our country and are pleased that the Commission is taking action to
increase
opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that
diverse interests have
opportunities to express themselves at different levels, and that
they
are not locked out
in a monopolistic, globalized fashion. It is as fundamental as free
speech. Radio is

perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover

community issues

and local music. Unfortunately, today's radio is the most concentrated and formulaic

medium in the country. Providing licenses to low power FM radio stations would create new opportunities for local voices to be heard in their communities.

Allowing low power FM radio stations on the air would empower local broadcasters to

serve their communities with a variety of new voices and services. Low

power radio

stations would be able to address specific groups -- including minority groups, the

religious community, and linguistic minorities -- and provide a forum

for debate about

important local issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in

urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small

to win attention from "mainstream", ratings-driven media.

Further, they would provide an outlet for the diverse, local voices and

musicians that

are presently priced out of the market. These stations would also provide advertising

options for local businesses and increased employment opportunities in

these

communities.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power

radio service would have wide support. The tremendous public demand for

microradio

is demonstrated by the proliferation of illegal radio stations, whose

operators broadcast

at the risk of financial losses and, in some cases, imprisonment.

Again, we applaud the Commission's willingness to address this issue.

We are hopeful

that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio service will soon become a

reality. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible to our

local communities.

Sincerely,

REPRESENTATIVES:

Bonior, Diaz-Balart, DeLauro, A. Hastings, Ros-Lehtinen,
Roybal-Allard,

Clyburn, Kaptur, G. Brown, Romero-Barcelo, Faleomavaega, DeFazio,
Conyers, Underwood, Mink, Eshoo, Wexler, Sandlin, Jackson-Lee, Wynn,

Fattah, Cummings, Schakowsky, Rivers, Shows, Napolitano, Reyes,
Gutierrez

Thank you to all who have helped acquire support for LPFM from your
Congressmen above.
We have twenty-eight Congressmen/Congresswomen signed up but want more
so
please do your
part today. The very survival of the LPFM movement depends on it!