

From: Christopher Conly
521 32nd Avenue East
Seattle, W.A. 98112
email cconly@wolffenet.com

Date: May 20, 1999

To: Federal Communications Commission
Washington, DC

Re: Low Power FM Radio, NPRM #FCC 99-6, MM Docket #99-25 & #95-25

Ladies, Gentlemen:

I want to support the idea that low power FM radio stations should be locally owned, non-commercial, and licensed FIRST to community and other local groups. Low power radio should be dedicated as much as possible to serving a variety of local voices, and licenses should be designed to make that process as easy as possible.

As I understand the present debate, the objectives I described above can best be achieved by implementing the following ideas:

1) Low power radio licenses should be noncommercial, since otherwise the money from existing commercial stations will be used to buy out community interests. If the FCC should decide to issue some commercial licenses, their priority and rights should be secondary to those of non-commercial stations (regardless of the amount of money and power commercial owners commit to them).

2) Only one station per owner.

3) Low power should mean low power -- 100 watts max for urban broadcasts, and 250 or so for rural stations. My understanding is that this is plenty to serve a local audience, and lower power means a greater diversity of stations available to the listener.

The present "state of radio" leaves a lot to be desired. Stations from one city to another -- Seattle and Portland, Oregon in my most recent experience -- sound very similar, play the same music, news and ads, even report traffic in the same way at the same time. Often I hear the same announcers. Clearly they are owned and managed by large, remote corporations; nothing could be further from local opinions and diverse voices.

The radio spectrum should be a public resource, used to express public needs and arrive at public solutions. I think that returning low power, diverse, non-commercial stations to the air will be a step in the right direction.

Thank you for listening.