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Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

Edward Fire, *President*  
Thomas J. Rebman, *Secretary-Treasurer*

April 20, 1999

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*Doc-no-99-25*

William Kennard, Chair  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

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Dear William Kennard:

This letter is submitted to the Federal Communications Commission as it reviews its rules with regard to low power FM radio.

Today radio in the United States has moved away from the vision of its pioneers as a force for democracy. Currently owned by a tiny number of huge multinational corporations, the radio outlets in this country now predominantly deliver an audience to paying advertisers.

We desperately need a system of worker oriented, community based local radio stations, controlled and operated by the people in the communities they serve. I urge the Commission to consider among the alternatives in your forthcoming Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, the option of completely noncommercial, locally owned and local programmed micro radio.

I also urge you to craft a plan for allocating spectrum space to communities which is simple, straightforward and ease for users such as IUE's members and community representatives to master. Consideration for these principles would permit Local Unions and labor councils and similar community organizations to consider utilizing some form of low power broadcasting directly.

Very truly yours,

Peter Mitchell  
Assistant to the President  
and General Counsel

PM:HK

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