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MIDDLE COUNTRY PUBLIC LIBRARY

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March 31, 1999

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman
The Federal Communications Commission
445 12 Street SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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Dear Chairman Kennard:

On January 28, 1999 the Federal Communications Commission issued a Notice Proposed Rulemaking regarding the creation of low power FM Radio service. The Commission's proposal envisions new 1000 watt, 100 watt and microradio stations, all with a limited service radius, to provide "new opportunity for community-oriented radio broadcasting." This is a most important goal and I am anxious to lend our support and voice our deep interest in this proposal.

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The FCC notice mentions thousands of inquiries to the Commission regarding Low Power Radio, which does not exist at this time. The text of the notice cites support for Low Power Radio coming from cities, schools, universities, Native American tribes, churches, entrepreneurs and various minority groups.

I wish to speak for yet another interested party, namely a public library that is in a very real sense the center of its community (its "town meeting hall" as some residents put it). The Middle Country Public Library serves all age groups in a population of about 55,000 in a sixteen square mile area of Suffolk County, New York. Of particular note is the family-centered services provided by the library, resulting in its citation as a national model for the Family Place Project.

In so many ways, a Low Power FM Radio outreach from the Middle Country Public Library would enhance the scope and quality of service we are able to offer this community. Broadcasting technology could be employed to extend the educational mission of this library through electronic outreach to the entire community.

With these exciting possibilities in mind, I enthusiastically support this proposal as a most appropriate and effective use of the public airwaves.

Yours truly,

Sandra Feinberg
Director

SF/jp

cc: Hon. Michael Forbes

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