EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

ORIGINAL

From: Mary Riddick
To: "bliss@aa.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:00 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Chairman Kennard requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

RECEIVED
JUL 13 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

>>> Jennevieve Schlemmer <bliss@aa.net> 07/09 12:56 PM >>>
=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry 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, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and 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 culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest 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", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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250 watts in rural areas.

4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

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Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Jennevieve Schlemmer
street=7316 Greenwood Ave. N
city=Seattle
state=WA
zip=98103
=Send to FCC

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JUL 14 1999
Federal Communications Commission
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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED ORIGINAL

From: Jerry Comisar <jcomisar@ix.netcom.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 12:27 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
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cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Gerald G. Comisar
street=1422 S. Blaney Avenue
city=San Jose
state=CA
zip=95129
=Send to FCC

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JUL 14 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: "Peter D. Ratner" <pdr@mail.csuchico.edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 1:07 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
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Additional Comments=
name=Peter Ratner
street=76 Gaia Way
city=Chico
state=CA
zip=95973
=Send to FCC

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From: Denny Williams <flyaird@uslink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 1:13 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Kiara Winans
street=10207 SW 39th Pl.
city=Gainesville
state=Fl
zip=32607
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
JUL 14 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: "eric lynch" <empowerrrr@hotmail.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 1:23 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.

4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property

should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Peace and understanding,

Eric Todd Lynch
223 W first Ave
Tallahassee, FL 32303

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Denny Williams <flyaird@uslink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 1:17 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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Additional Comments=
name=Jonathan R Pywell
street=149 watchung ave
city=montclair
state=NJ
zip=07043
=Send to FCC

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ORIGINAL

RECEIVED
JUL 14 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Brian <fishhead@novato.net>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 2:38 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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name=Brian Berberich
street=152 Lobo Vista
city=Novato
state=CA
zip=94947
=Send to FCC