

TO: The Federal Communications Commission
FR: Ron Frizzell
President, WLAM AM&FM; WMWX

Re: Low Power FM

July 20, 1999

We serve the small community of Lewiston-Auburn, Maine. While there are 5 licensed facilities to this area, 3 of them originate programming from over 15 miles away. The area we primarily serve is approximately 60,000 people.

The reason the other stations left is because it is too hard to make a living with 5 radio stations in two small towns. Often we too are tempted to move out and become a "move in" to the larger market of Portland, Maine. However, we have stayed. We serve this community and last year gave out grants of over \$200,000 to community non-profit organizations.

Because of the population density of this market, a Low Power FM facility would cover it well, and compete strongly with us. The difference of just one more station would be enough to push us to Portland. It would be the straw that breaks our camel's back. There is just enough revenue. We have been here 24 years and watched 5 radio bankruptcies. That's why the new owners moved the stations out of this market.

Largest markets such as Boston, Providence, etc., probably can use the diversity. It won't ruin the revenue support. In rural states like Maine, where many stations serve their communities of 2500 to 75,000 people, most stations barely hang on. Adding new competitors whose signals would strongly compete in these tiny markets will ruin community service, as we know it. Stations that lose money will fulfill FCC requirements without ever really benefiting their communities.

Please take a look at the severe impact this addition would have on America's smaller communities. Thank You.