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July 13, 1999

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

In the matter of

Creation of a Low
Power Radio Station

MM Docket No. 99-25
RM-9208
RM-9242

Comments of WQLT, WXFL, WSBM in Florence, Alabama

I am totally opposed to adding hundreds or thousands of new low radio power stations to an already muddled broadcast band of legal and illegal translators. The proposed low power radio service, while well intended, will create technical problems that will greatly erode our ability to serve.

WQLT is a NAB Finalist for the Marconi Station-of-the-year award in small markets due to our 26+ years of service to our listening area. Millions of dollars invested in quality products, equipment and outstanding service. All will be in jeopardy with the FM band becoming as unlistenable as most low power AM stations.

With the coming of digital satellite programming with no community service obligations or desires to be an outstanding corporate citizen, this proposal could mean the deterioration of an institution that has served our country and our communities with great pride and sense of responsibilities that will not be evident or possible with small operations struggling to make ends meet while eroding the very core of our signals.

The FCC today does not have the personnel to monitor stations that illegally over-modulate, translators that totally violate the purpose of its origination but all of which pollute our valuable air space.

There are hundreds of low power AM stations on-the-air today that could provide the purposes intended by this proposal without ruining an industry that serves and protects.

Your reconsideration of this proposal merited and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Bill Thomas
General Manager
WQLT/WXFL/WSBM

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VALLEY PUBLIC RADIO

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July 15, 1999

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JUL 20 1999

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The Honorable William E. Kennard
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission
425 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Kennard:

We are writing with regard to the Federal Communications Commission's low power FM (LPFM) radio proceeding. (MM Docket 99-25) After meeting with members of the public radio community serving our district, we are concerned by two specific aspects of the FCC's proposal.

First, one or more of the proposed classes of low-power FM stations would supplant transistor service by existing public radio stations. Service by translators is essential to achieving universal access to public radio in our states and across the country. Low power radio must not diminish existing radio service.

Second, the Commission should not proceed with action on LPFM until the technical studies underway are concluded and it is established that this proposed service will not disrupt or impair existing service or the transition to digital radio. As you know, there are a number of leading technology companies nearing development of a digital radio transmission standard. We understand that significant testing of the competing standards will have occurred by the end of this year. We believe the prudent course is to delay this proceeding until the results of that testing are known.

This matter is extremely important to us and we urge you to give the above concerns the utmost consideration.

Sincerely,

Mariam Stepanian

Mariam Stepanian
President and General Manager

Robert T. Cherry

Robert Cherry
Chairperson, Board of Directors

cc: ✓ Office of the Secretary
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Gloria Tristani

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