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Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
the Portals
445 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20544

Re: MM Docket 99-25 (aka RM-9208 & RM-9242)

Dear Sir,

I am writing to you in response to the possibility of the creation of Low Power FM Radio Services for Local Communities. I am in favor of this proposal, believing that America's airwaves are being monopolized by the interests of big business. In order to illustrate my opinion, I feel that I should tell you a bit about myself and my organization, louisianaradio.com.

Louisianaradio.com is a web site (<http://www.louisianaradio.com>) which broadcasts the indigenous music of Louisiana 24 hours a day on the World Wide Web. Why, you may ask, did we choose to broadcast over the telephone lines as opposed to the airwaves? There are a number of issues involved.

First of all, we did not have the finances to fund the creation of a radio station, including salaries, operational costs, a transmitter, and all the necessary components of a functional radio station.

Secondly, there are no more FCC licenses available for a small interest like ourselves. There is no more room on America's airwaves for community interests. This has led to the homogenous sound of radio today. What ever happened to the notion of America as a melting pot?

Louisianaradio.com chose the internet as a medium for our endeavors for a couple of reasons. For one, it was relatively cost-effective; and second, we could reach an audience hungry for information, in particular the music of Louisiana.

What we are doing is very niche. We realize this, but we believe that it is an important one nonetheless. Radio used to be concerned with the community from which it broadcasted. That no longer seems to be the case, particularly when the majority of radio stations in any given area are owned by one legal entity. It doesn't matter where the listener flips around on the dial, it's all the same.

The advantage to broadcasting over the World Wide Web is that we can reach a larger geographical audience than we could by broadcasting over the local airwaves.

The disadvantage is that we can not broadcast to the majority of people who want to hear this music the most - the residents of Lafayette, Louisiana. Our internet audience tends to be highly educated, with a greater than average

expendable income. As the prices of computers and the cost involved with being online decline, we will see our demographics change. Until then, we are broadcasting mainly to individuals outside of Louisiana. This is not entirely undesirable, since it has educated those outside of the state about our rich musical heritage. What is undesirable is that we can not reach individuals, who might not be able to afford the cost of being online, who have lived their lives to this music. We are providing a community service, but one must be online in order to reap the benefits of this service.

The greatest complaint that we receive from visitors to our website is that they can not listen to our "radio station" in their car. In order to receive our programming they must be seated in close proximity to their computer.

There is one local public radio station, KRVS 88.7 FM, that does a good job of covering Louisiana's music, but that is only by way of specialized programming. Some of their programs are also operas and talk shows supplied by National Public Radio. Their format is not strictly Louisiana music. I do not believe they can afford that risk of broadcasting only Louisiana music. LouisianaRadio.com, on the other hand, welcomes that risk.

Louisianaradio.com sees the potential for Low Power FM Stations as putting the power of the airwaves back into the hands of communities of individuals. Communities across the United States are being sucked into a cultural vacuum and radio has been partly to blame for this. The interest of high finance have seen to it that we are fed a healthy dose of "music" which has little to do with the lives we lead. Music can be used as filler for commercials. That has been proven. But music ultimately should reaffirm where we can from, who we are, and our aspirations for the future.

I do not believe either that all the Low Power FM Stations should be noncommercial. Competition is what drives the American will power. I believe that both commercial and noncommercial entities should be considered for licensing of Low Power FM Stations.

I also believe that licenses should be granted on a first come, first served basis.

I appreciate the opportunity to have my voice heard and I pray that you will take my thoughts into consideration. We have already given away the Digital Spectrum to big business, without any discourse from the American public, the owners of it. Americans have historically prided themselves on being allowed to voice their opinions. Unless the current tide changes, I fear that right will be even further depleted. A voice in America today requires the big bucks to back it. Please put radio back in the hands of the people of the United States and not in the hands of corporations. Low Power FM Stations is the first logical step in that process.

I am pleased that there has been so much discussion on this topic. Thank you again for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

R. Reese Fuller
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