

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED K - 99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "James.Bunnelle@usm.edu"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:09 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED**JUL 22 1999**

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.

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

>>> "James M. Bunnelle" <James.Bunnelle@usm.edu> 07/09 1:47 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 Clinton Vice 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 industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others

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who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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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.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

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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.

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11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

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Signed,

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Steering Committee:
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco

Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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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=James Bunnelle
street=510 Melba Avenue
city=Hattiesburg
state=MS
zip=39401
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DIS-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "bbader@mindspring.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:13 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED**JUL 22 1999**

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Office of Secretary**

>>> Barbara Bader <bbader@mindspring.com> 07/09 1:55 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
 Federal Communications Commission
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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=Barbara Bader
street=1620 N.E. Irving St., Apt. 81
city=Portland
state=OR
zip=97232
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

K-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "thaddeus@intrepid.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:08 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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>>> "Samuel T. Jannotta" <thaddeus@intrepid.net> 07/09 1:26 PM >>>

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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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=Please help ensure public access to the public airwaves in order to strengthen this democracy and unify our collective will towards the greater good. Thank you very muc

name=Samuel T. Jannotta

street=RR3 Box593

city=Harpers Ferry

state=WV

zip=25425

=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "dakk@ix.netcom.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:40 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED**JUL 22 1999**

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Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

>>> Kevin Faye <dakk@ix.netcom.com> 07/13 9:51 AM >>>
 =To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
 Federal Communications Commission
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco

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

Additional Comments=
name=Kevin Faye
street=30 Loudoun St.
city=Yonkers
state=NY
zip=10705
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
 To: "artwick.c@wlu.edu"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
 Date: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:39 PM
 Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 22 1999

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

Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

>>> Claudette Artwick <artwick.c@wlu.edu> 07/13 9:35 AM >>>

=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 Clinton Vice 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,

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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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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.

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

Additional Comments=

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street=Washington & Lee Univ.
city=Lexington
state=VA
zip=24450
=Send to FCC

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DK-99-25

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

From: Mary Riddick
To: "mykarolak@aep.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 2:39 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 22 1999

Chairman Kennard, requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25. **Federal Communications Commission Office of Secretary**

>>> <mykarolak@aep.com> 07/13 8:44 AM >>>

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 Clinton Vice 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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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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industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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.

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
Melissa Karolak
1824 Ridgebury Drive
Hilliard, OH 43026

ORIGINAL EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

From: Mary Riddick
To: "swedishgoat@hotmail.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 3:49 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

JUL 22 1999

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Federal Communications Commission
 Office of Secretary

>>> "Kirstin 'Danger' Munro" <swedishgoat@hotmail.com> 07/13 3:22 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 Clinton Vice President Al Gore,
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