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JUL 22 1999

From: Mary Riddick  
To: "matzenb@provalue.net"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:42 PM  
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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.

>>> Ben Matzen <matzenb@provalue.net> 07/09 8:57 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

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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](mailto: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:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
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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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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

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Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:  
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:

Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana  
Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Juliet Schor--Harvard University  
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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city=Stillwater  
state=OK  
zip=74075  
=Send to FCC

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JUL 22 1999

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "jmc@monitor.net"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:43 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Federal Communications Commission  
Office of Secretary

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>>> "J. Michael Costello" <jmc@monitor.net> 07/09 9:32 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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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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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.

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MEC Honorary Chair:

~~DK 9925~~

Robert W. McChesney, Madison

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Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

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city=Bodega  
state=CA  
zip=94922-0031  
=Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED 15-99-25

ORIGINAL RECEIVED

From: Mary Riddick  
To: "arlo@asis.com"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:34 PM  
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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>>> Arlo Hagler <arlo@asis.com> 07/09 6:02 PM >>>  
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Additional Comments=  
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city=Garberville  
state=Ca  
zip=95542  
=Send to FCC

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DK-99-25

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "sluton@flash.net"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:32 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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JUL 22 1999

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>>> Susan Luton <sluton@flash.net> 07/09 4:29 PM >>>  
=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
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Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
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DK-99-25  
ORIGINAL RECEIVED

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "rutkowski@terraworld.net"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:26 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 22 1999

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Office of Secretary

>>> Robert Rutkowski <rutkowski@terraworld.net> 07/09 3:16 PM >>>  
 =To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
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 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
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 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25  
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Additional Comments=

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city=Topeka  
state=KS  
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=Send to FCC

**ORIGINAL**

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DK-99-25

**RECEIVED**

**From:** Mary Riddick  
**To:** "druid666@cloudnet.com"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:28 PM  
**Subject:** Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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>>> Billy Lee Newland <druid666@cloudnet.com> 07/09 3:16 PM >>>

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 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,  
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 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

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Additional Comments=

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ORIGINAL

RECEIVED

From: Mary Riddick  
 To: "robbiefry@newwave.net"@ROUTE\_A.GWIA1  
 Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:28 PM  
 Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

JUL 22 1999

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