

I have been in the radio broadcasting industry since 1977 when I joined the staff of KDWB-FM in Minneapolis/St. Paul. Since then with much hard work and personal sacrifice, I have become the Chief Financial

Officer and Vice President of Omni Broadcasting Company. Omni is located

in Bemidji, Minnesota and is the management company of six full power radio stations: KBHP-FM, KKZY-FM, KBUN-AM, Bemidji; KIKV-FM, Alexandria;

and WJJY-FM, KTCF-FM, Brainerd.

I know the Commission has received hundreds of pages of facts and information about why low power FM=92s are a threat to the broadcasting industry, with the potential to destroy radio as we know it. I am not going to expound on the technical merits of why low power FM=92s are dangerous - I am assuming you have studied, or will be studying and researching technical aspects and will call in engineering experts to advise you. What I am going to expound on, however, is the fact that low

power FM=92s will not be a good thing for any of us - not radio listeners=

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not owners and operators, not communities who need local radio to keep their residents informed and certainly not advertisers who cannot support

additional media in their areas. There will be no winners if low power FM=92s become a reality.

Radio broadcasting has changed drastically just within the last ten years. Some of the changes, technical advances for instance, have been good ones. But the proliferation of radio stations all across America has not been a good thing. With so many signals obviously you have had to relax ownership rules - thereby forcing "Mom and Pop" operators out of

business. We have enough radio signals to serve our communities. We in

rural America do not need more, and those in urban areas echo those same sentiments.

Honorable radio owners serve their communities proudly and would like the chance to continue to do so. Each of the radio stations Omni owns support their local communities by broadcasting 10,000 - 12,000 public service announcements annually. We have credible and award winning local news directors who take pride in the integrity of their reporting. We offer public officials free time on our local public affairs programs, and we continually update listeners on local weather conditions, using local color weather radar systems we have installed in our studios.

Our stations have won state and national awards (most recently KBHP-FM in Bemidji won the NAB=92s "Service to America Radio Partnership Award" and is a three time NAB "Crystal Award" winner). We provide financial and on-air support to end child abuse, to help disabled children and adults enjoy normal summer camping activities, help fund scholarships for Native Americans and Bemidji State University Students. Each year we raise thousands of pounds of food for our local food shelf, and we help in efforts to find a cure to end diabetes. Our public service endeavors go on and on. We would like to continue to operate our stations the way we have for the past ten years -- with dignity, integrity and honesty. Please do not let low power FM radio stations distract us by forcing us to spend our efforts and thousands of dollars on engineering problems in order to maintain our signal so listeners can continue to hear us. Please do not let low power FM radio stations destroy the broadcasting industry - one that I have been proud to be a part of for over 20 years. Do not destroy this industry. Low power FM=92s are not your answer to

increasing minority ownership and diversity. Ownership of low power radio stations will not provide the knowledge needed to run good, quality properties. However, with education and training we can increase minority ownership and management. Awarding someone a LPFM because they are a minority or a female is wrong in and of itself. It becomes a compounded problem because you will destroy the broadcasting industry. No one will win.

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