

Before the

Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of  
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM  
(LPFM) Broadcast Service  
Docket No. MM 99-25

To: Federal Communications Commission

Comments of JEFFREY C. BUSSARD

Dear Commissioners,

The broadcasting industry in general and radio broadcasting in particular is dominated by huge organizations that pretty much program the same formats over and over. These organizations do this because the entry fee to radio is very high in terms of equipment, consultants, attorneys and licensing requirements. The result can be observed by traveling to any city and you can always find the same program either syndicated or with different personalities. This does not imply that there is anything wrong with this facet of radio broadcasting however, the current situation removes the possibility of any alternative or community oriented programming that cannot be made available.

If the FCC is to utilize the least restrictive method of regulation, the Low Power FM service is a step in the right direction. Please note that this service must also be allowed to be a commercial one to ensure it's responsibility to the community. Without the sales of commercial programs for local business' and charitable groups who never had this path available to them, the Low Power FM Service will be nothing but hobby radio broadcasting for those with the money or supported by donations. And if the audience is not wide enough, listener supported Low Power FM will not work. The free market for air time is self-regulating as a broadcaster has a responsibility to not only his audience but his clients as well.

Why not set aside 3 channels for the Low Power Service only. If the power output is not that great, many stations will be able to broadcast on the same channel to their respective target audience and minimize interference. Mixing Low Power stations and higher power on the same channel is not recommended. Also, Low Power FM only channels will serve the public to help find alternative and local community programming. As far moving the higher power service off of those channels, a five to ten year window for that activity should be a suitable compromise.

The United States should be the country that presents the greatest opportunity to the most people. Low Power FM Service is an idea that whose time has come not only technologically but culturally as well.

Thank You.

Regards

Jeffrey C. Bussard