

No one looking at the radio system in the U.S. today would guess that our communications law states that the airwaves belong to the people. The American public is stringently excluded from use of the airwaves.

The FCC's misadministration of the law has led to a steady, decades-long deterioration in the value of radio as a means of communication in this country.

It is a massive disservice to the public that our radio dials are almost entirely occupied by nonstop music and inane DJ banter, carefully designed to appeal to the lowest common denominator audience. The main service being provided by our radio these days is not to the public, but to the profitability of a steadily-shrinking group of large corporations.

The one light of hope seen anytime recently is the FCC proposal to allow for the establishment of low-power FM stations serving small localities.

I am extremely hopeful that this proposal will be put into effect, and we will see the birth of a profusion of new radio stations, noncommercial, nonowned, nonsaleable, not burdened by exorbitant fees, and covering as wide as possible a range of powers, from sub-10 watts up, so as to allow for a wide variety of operating conditions and objectives.