

Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Creation of a Low
Power Radio Service

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MM Docket No. 99-25
RM-9208
RM-9242

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Comments of
RONALD L. KRUSE, GENERAL MANAGER
WDKB FM RADIO
DEKALB, ILLINOIS

In the 30 years I have been involved in broadcasting, I have never been more certain that a proposal by the Commission was more likely to damage our industry in so many ways.

WDKB serves DeKalb County in Illinois, and like thousands of other small market radio stations, we work very hard to include the voices, you believe are "unheard", every day. We support, through the use of our facilities and with our hard earned dollars, the efforts of United Way, the YMCA, Big Brothers & Big Sisters, Salvation Army and dozens upon dozens of organizations in our broadcast area. We deliver their messages to thousands of listeners throughout our broadcast area, and we do it well.

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Now you propose to add literally thousands of low power radio stations to the spectrum. What is it that we did not learn from Docket 80-90 that must be repeated? You say that consolidation has created the need for these stations. What do you think caused consolidation? Docket 80-90 increased the number of radio stations to the point of unprofitability. The loss of profits led to smaller, lower paid staffs, cheap satellite programming and in hundreds and hundreds of small and large towns across America, the loss of local ownership. If the purpose of the Commission is to continue the decimation of the broadcast industry, the addition of these low power licenses is clearly the way.

The Commission's lack of resources and inability to control the existing spectrum is clearly demonstrated in its failure to deal with pirate radio stations. How will you control the thousands of new stations you will be creating with this proposal? The answer is that you won't. Interference to existing stations will be rampant.

DeKalb County currently has five local radio stations serving it's population of 85,000. All five stations are committed to serving the needs of all of the citizens. In addition, dozens of broadcast signals from outside the County are available to listeners that meet every imaginable need. Creating more stations will not serve the needs of this area. In fact, it will be counter-productive. As signal interference increases and listenership becomes increasingly more divided, revenues will decline. The ability of stations, such as ours, to provide for the needs of our communities will

also decline. Low power stations with comparatively tiny audiences will not be able to replace what will be lost.

For the sake of our communities and for the well being of this industry, I urge the Commission to reconsider its position on the addition of these low power stations to the already crowded spectrum.