

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

In the Matter of)
)
Creation of a Low)
Power Radio Service)

MM Docket 99-25

RECEIVED

Comments of

AUG 02 1999

Gary L. Randall
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FCC MAIL ROOM

I file these comments on July 30, 1999 in response to the Notice of Proposed Rule Making to authorize licensing of new low power FM radio stations.

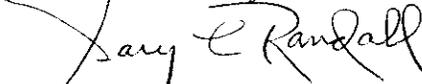
There currently exists many unique geographical areas (most notably island communities in the Great Lakes) that lack the services provided by a local commercial radio station. These communities are in need of the public service benefits that could be provided by a low power commercial radio station.

Many of the islands in the Great Lakes support complete communities (local government units, schools, churches, and private sector enterprise) that have been deprived of local community-oriented radio service. This lack of service can be attributed to a modest economic base that can not sustain a full power station but could support a less costly low power commercial radio service. Allowing low power FM radio service would meet the special needs of these unique local communities and would clearly be consistent with the intent of the Communications Act of 1934.

While in most cases these island communities are able to receive signals from mainland stations, the unique and special needs of these small communities are rarely addressed. Low power locally owned and operated stations, broadcasting locally produced programming, would fill this void.

I urge the FCC to adopt rules that would allow the licensing of commercial low power FM radio stations. I would further encourage the Commission to grant a preference to applications seeking to serve island communities that currently do not have local community-based radio service. This action would be consistent with the Commission charge to manage the spectrum in a way that encourages diversity and community-oriented radio service.

Submitted by:



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