ORIGINAL DK 99-25

From: Michael Wells <wells@amazon.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 2:37 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by Michael Wells (wells@amazon.com)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 13:37:50

---

comments: It's important that the airwaves stay in the public trust. This is space that we must all share and in this spirit I'm personally in favor of this opportunity for micro radio to flourish.

address: 520 Pike St.

address2: Suite 1590.2

city: Seattle

state: WA

zip: 98101

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their

communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL DK-99-25

From: Ellen Davis <edwrites@pacbell.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 2:37 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.
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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Ellen Davis
street=EJD Consulting
city=Foster City
state=CA
zip=94404
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL DK-99-25

From: Steven E. Vertel <stevenv@amazon.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 2:16 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Steven E. Vertel (stevenv@amazon.com)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 13:16:03

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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comments: Please support community radio. We need to preserve and nurture an independent voice in an increasingly corporate world.

There are too few outlets for art, music, speech and thought in our society.

address: 2440 Western Ave., #205

city: Seattle

state: WA

zip: 98121

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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ORIGINAL DK-99-25

From: Brant Comstock <brant_comstock@aici.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 7:57 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Brant Comstock (brant_comstock@aici.com) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 06:57:06

---

comments: "I support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US."

address: 3806 ault park ave

city: cincinnati

state: oh

zip: 45208

Submit: Send to FCC

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL DA-99-25

From: Debbie Erickson <derickson@cdzc.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 2:43 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by Debbie Erickson (derickson@cdzc.com)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 13:43:22

---

address: 1537 Castle Court #3

city: Houston

state: TX

zip: 77006

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

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Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities. In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca) and Americans for Radio Diversity (ard@radparker.com), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad

citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.

2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.

3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.

4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL DK-99-25

From: Ryan McKay <ryan.j.mckay@directory.reed.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 2:52 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by Ryan McKay (ryan.j.mckay@directory.reed.edu) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 13:52:21

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comments: Although I am concerned that FCC will overstep its bounds concerning the regulation of content on small radio stations, I support the legalization of such radio stations. I have always found it necessary to seek out alternative forms of media, dealing with local issues (in the Berkeley/San Francisco area), and coverage of art, music, and a general culture which would remain underground without listener sponsered public radio. When one of my favorite Berkeley area radio stations was closed down because it was operating without a license, I felt betrayed. Having had to undergo the process of licesnsing a radio station at my college, I understand the difficulty small radio stations may encounter when attempting to secure a license. My hope is that this legislation will enable this process to become much easier for the average person to undergo. If small radio continues to be a crime which the FCC cracks down on with a passion, the people may take all of their radio programming to the internet...which could mean the end of the FCC's control over broadcasting in general.

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

address: #838 c/o

address2: Reed College 3203 SE Woodstock Blvd.

city: Portland

state: OR

zip: 97202

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
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Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

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