EX PARTE OR LATE FILED DK 99-25

ORIGINAL

From: Stephanie & Ted Coopman <rogue@roguecom.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 9:49 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

=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,
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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.

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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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), 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.

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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.

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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

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Signed,

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Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
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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=Ted M. Coopman
street=2501 Friesland Court
city=Santa Cruz
state=CA
zip=95062
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

From: John C Rodee <spill@execpc.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 1999 11:28 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by John C Rodee (spill@execpc.com)
on Tuesday, July 20, 1999 at 10:28:31

---

comments: I support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US. I would love to see the radio spectrum broaden it's horizons to include more profit and non profit radio. The high cost of high wattage broadcasting has limited the voice of many smaller diversise groups. Please allow LPFM stations to become a reality.

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: P.O. BOX 112

city: Milwaukee

state: WI

zip: 53201-0112

Submit: Send to FCC

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
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cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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Movement for Self Determination
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED DR. 99-25

From: george gondo <busykid@mail.tds.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 1999 11:16 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by george gondo (busykid@mail.tds.net)
on Tuesday, July 20, 1999 at 10:16:28

---

comments: For several years, I have followed the "microradio" campaign.
From the FCC seizure of the Gainesville 'pirate' station to the Court rulings over Radio Free Berkeley, the idea of locally operated community-oriented radio stations has often perked my interests.
I am surprised to see that the FCC has finally decided that the Radio Airwaves should be free to the people, and not
regimented to the hands of corporate interests.

address: 1805 Branner st

city: KNoxville

state: Tn

zip: 37917

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 1999 11:16 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Mark Henderson (seh5661@ccp.com)
on Tuesday, July 20, 1999 at 10:16:28

---

comments: I stand by this 100%. With this many people signing it, you have to know we believe.

address: 1104 Northwood Dr. #6

city: St. Joseph

state: mo

zip: 64505

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Mitchell Berg <mitch@humanwaredesign.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 1999 1:17 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Mitchell Berg (mitch@humanwaredesign.com)
on Tuesday, July 20, 1999 at 12:17:58

---

comments: While I am loath to sign my name to a document also signed by Mumia Abu-Jamal, I do agree - the public needs and deserves access to low-power radio. Along with the internet, it could be the best contribution to public journalism we could make. As a former broadcaster, I can testify to the need to break the monopoly the big conglomerates (including the government and the CPB) have on the broadcast spectrum.

address: 1446 West Minnehaha Avenue

city: Saint Paul

state: MN

zip: 55104

Submit: Send to FCC

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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.

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.

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

DK99-25

From: Linda Wolff <lwolf@med.unc.edu>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Tue, Jul 20, 1999 12:17 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Additional Comments=I volunteer at a small public radio station and still feel that local microradio would be a great and viable addition to our community (Chapel Hill/RTP, NC).
name=Maura Partrick
street=PO Box 4734
city=Chapel Hill
state=NC
zip=27515
=Send to FCC