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DK-99-25

From: MARK ANDREW WEST <dysmey@anderson.cioe.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 5:30 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by MARK ANDREW WEST (dysmey@anderson.cioe.com) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 16:30:20

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I would also like to add a couple of comments in support of the microradio movement.

The decline of the newspaper in the past few years--felt in central Indiana recently with the closure of the Indianapolis News--brings emphasis to the need for microradio stations for the dissemination of news to local communitites not well served by commercial radio and television.

Also, the concentration of media in the hands of the few, as already noted by the main body of this petition, threatens the First Amendment guarantee of freedom of the press. Microradio is one means by which this unconstitutional (yet strangely legal) concentration of power can be offset.

address: 202 E WASHINGTON ST

city: FAIRMOUNT

state: IN

zip: 46928

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
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

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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.

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.

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Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

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

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director ,Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
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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: Britton Holland <britton@blikum.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 8:55 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Britton Holland (britton@blikum.com)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 19:55:56
---

comments: I support the freedom of microradio. I also compliment the foresight of the FCC to respond to and acknowledge this issue. This country must always hold the freedom of speech and communication at it's most paramount. Microradio should be accessible and available.

address: 1227 23rd Street #2

city: Sacramento

state: CA

zip: 95816

Submit: Send to FCC

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JUL 30 1999
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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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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

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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

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

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
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Stuart Ewen -- Author
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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DK.99-25

ORIGINAL

From: Randall Lee Zoetewey <rzoetewey@nims.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 11:50 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Randall Lee Zoetewey (rzoetewey@nims.net)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 22:50:53

---

comments: Please take a moment and consider these points. They all strike to the heart of an individualized America. I strongly feel that the creation of low power licenses should be allowed!

address: 4130 Proton Drive

address2: #13-D

city: Addison

state: TX

zip: 75001

Submit: Send to FCC

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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
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cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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

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Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

DK-99-25

From: Kyle Melton <meltonk@ucs.orst.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 10:42 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Kyle Melton (meltonk@ucs.orst.edu)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 21:42:10

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

address: 888 NW 1st

city: Milton-Freewater

state: OR

zip: 97862

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Gary Embler <gembler@photoaccess.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 8:39 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Gary Embler (gembler@photoaccess.com)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 19:39:26
---

comments: I favor the creation of low-power, community-based radio stations.
The existing commercial radio system discourages equal accessabilty to the broadcast radio spectrum, a public resource.
Low-power, community radio would help restore accessability and fairness.

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Sincerely,

Gary Embler
Senior Electrical Engineer
Photo Access Corporation

address: 1916 Old Middlefield Way

city: Mountain View

state: CA

zip: 94043

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
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

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List ABCDE

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.

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:

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ORIGINAL

DK 99-25

From: Jason Petrie <JayPeach@aol.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 8:57 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Jason Petrie (JayPeach@aol.com)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 19:57:38

---

address: 15 Adams Rd.

city: Grafton

state: MA

zip: 01519

Submit: Send to FCC

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1999
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