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DK 99-25

ORIGINAL

From: Amy Hoskins <amyhoskins@aol.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 9:05 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Amy Hoskins (amyhoskins@aol.com) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 20:04:59

comments: Please make this important change to encourage diversity and democracy.

address: 310 Tyne Ave.

city: Murfreesboro

state: TN

zip: 37130

Submit: Send to FCC

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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.

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

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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.
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.
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10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

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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.

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
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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

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

~~DK-99-25~~
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From: Michael J. Farley <mfarl@rocketmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 9:55 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Michael J. Farley (mfarl@rocketmail.com) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 20:55:39

comments: I am a singer/songwriter who can only be heard on certain college radio stations in Cleveland, where I live. Like me, there are many great local artists and bands that deserve to be heard. Instead, we get to hear the conglomerates and their "office rock"...there is one station here where I can literally here "what I like about you" by the Romantics and "Time of your life" by Green Day EVERY DAY. Thank you for your efforts!

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: P.O. Box 30397

city: Cleveland

state: OH

zip: 44130

Submit: Send to FCC

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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

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

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DR-99-25

From: deras <derasflynn@mailcity.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 8:02 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by deras (derasflynn@mailcity.com)
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 19:02:11

comments: give us are rights are i might actually vote in the next election and it wont be for any one that will keep you in power... also you could diffuse alot of angry people by giving them an actual taste of freedom...

address: 317 wembley lane

city: manchester

state: mo

zip: 63021

Submit: Send to FCC

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To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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DK-99-25

ORIGINAL

From: Mark Allen Ziegenbein <MrZiegenbein@Hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 9:37 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Mark Allen Ziegenbein (MrZiegenbein@Hotmail.com) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 20:37:07

comments: This LPFM clasification would open a door to enerjetic radio fans. I support it one hundred percent. You should too.

address: 4651 152nd Ct.

city: Apple Valley

state: MN

zip: 55124

Submit: Send to FCC

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Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots

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 99-25

From: William O. Jaynes, Jr. <woj2198@earthlink.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 9:21 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by William O. Jaynes, Jr. (woj2198@earthlink.net) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 20:21:45

comments: I strongly support the establishment of a low-power, non-commercial radio network in the United States. The current system limits the public's exposure to new and diverse opinions, music, art, and communication generally. Surely the establishment of a system that opens the airwaves to more diverse options can only help foster an open and democratic society. Please support this proposal! It is important!

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Thank you for your time and consideration.

address: 6 1/2 Neron Place

city: New Orleans

state: LA

zip: 70118

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 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

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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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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Jason A. Schindler <altrus@ibm.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 9:21 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Jason A. Schindler (altrus@ibm.net) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 20:21:23

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

I would like to express my support for the Microradio Campaign. I think many people and the industry at large will benefit by letting such operations succeed. However, it is also important to allow currently existing radio to thrive as well; I think here of medium powered stations and especially those that are non-profit--public radio and college stations. The idea that should go forward with Microradio campaigns is that everyone should be allowed to have a piece of the radio "pie." But it is important to keep the slices the same for everyone and make the pie bigger, not to cut everyone's current piece down to accomodate the same sized pie.

That being said, I sense some difficulty with the stated concerns at points 4 and 8 in particular. These need to be clarified somewhat and checked to allow fairness for both high and low powered FM stations.

I do hope that some kind of agreement can be reached that allows profit radio and non-profit radio, low and high powered radio to co-exist peacefully and to the benefit of the people.

Thank you, and Long Live the Revolution,
Jason A. Schindler (signed)
Student, Oregon State University
88.7 FM, KBRV-Corvallis, OR

address: 1640 NW Division St.

city: Corvallis

state: OR

zip: 97330

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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