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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

99-25

From: Andrew Molloy <maloi@qx.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 26, 1999 4:15 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Andrew Molloy (maloi@qx.net)
on Monday, July 26, 1999 at 15:15:31

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comments: The First Amendment to the United States Constitution states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the government for a redress of grievances" (US Constitution). The protection of free speech given by this statement is of particular importance to most US citizens. In theory, this freedom should extend to all reasonably available media, including radio. However, supporters of micro powered radio believe that this right has been taken away by the FCC. Because the process involved in obtaining a license to broadcast radio signals from the FCC is extremely expensive, only the very rich have the ability to legally set up radio stations (Ferguson, 1998). When government regulation affects the First Amendment's guarantees of free speech, the government must "establish that the contested regulations are the least restrictive means available to further compelling state interest" (United States of America v. Stephen Paul Dunifer, 1995). In 1934, when radio regulations were first put in place, equipment used to transmit radio signals was not as robust as it is today. At that time, the FCC's could justify such strong regulation based on the limited availability of spectrum. However, some believe that, due to modern technology, this justification may be out of date (United States of America v. Stephen Paul Dunifer, 1995). With currently available equipment, many more radio stations can operate in the same market without interference than even just a few years ago. The validity of this statement has been demonstrated by Canadian law, which currently licenses micro powered radio stations (United States of America v. Stephen Paul Dunifer, 1995). Many of the fears expressed by various anti-micro powered radio groups in the United States have not been realized in Canada.

References

Ferguson, Sarah. (1998, May 19). Rebel radio. [On-line]. Available: http://artcon,rutgers.edu/papertiger/nyfma/str/voice.html

United States of America v. Stephen Paul Dunifer, No. C 94-03542 (U.S. filed Jan. 30, 1995).

address: 2070 Garden Springs Dr.

address2: Apt. 39

city: Lexington

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state: KY

zip: 40504

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 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.

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.

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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

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Signed,

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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

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
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University
Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: William Wesley Snow <snowwill@uab.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 26, 1999 5:01 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

This email was submitted by William Wesley Snow (snowwill@uab.edu)
on Monday, July 26, 1999 at 16:01:30

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 1040 14th ave. so.

address2: apt. 1

city: Birmingham

state: AL

zip: 35205

Submit: Send to FCC

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

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
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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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From: Craig Rodrigue <t-craigr@amazon.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K5DOM....
Date: Mon, Jul 26, 1999 5:23 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=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

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

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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Craig Rodrigue
street=
city=
state=
zip=
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: "Olayinka Fadahunsi" <Olayinka.Fadahunsi@BondBuyer.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Tue, Jul 27, 1999 4:20 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=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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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=Thank you for considering the microradio activists' requests. I hope you can find some viable means of providing an inexpensive forum to broadcast local coverage of community affairs and events.
name=Olayinka Fadahunsi
street=687 East 240th Street
city=Bronx
state=NY
zip=10470
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Donald P Campbell <donc@bellsouth.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 26, 1999 6:37 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Donald P Campbell (donc@bellsouth.net)
on Monday, July 26, 1999 at 05:37:08

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JUL 30 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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address: 185 Rockspray Ridge

city: Peachtree City

state: GA

zip: 30269

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 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:

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

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Lowell White -- Technologist <whiteld@usa.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Jul 26, 1999 9:32 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Lowell White -- Technologist (whiteld@usa.net) on Monday, July 26, 1999 at 08:32:52

---

comments: I support LPFM and consider it to be a potentially effective tool in returning this country to one where the individuals and their communities matter. We need to escape the nationalistic and globalist homogenation that threatens what made this country great: the contributions of individuals and communities.

RECEIVED
JUL 30 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 10453 Jennifer Circle

city: Forney

state: TX

zip: 75126

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