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7TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE  
SUBCOMMITTEES:  
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Congress of the United States  
House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515-4207

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COLUMBIA, TN 38401  
601-381-8108

July 14, 1999

Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street SW  
Washington DC 20554

RECEIVED

JUL 26 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*MM99-25  
3872*

*MHB  
LPFM  
include in  
Proceeding  
Record*

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I recently heard from one of my constituents, Mr. Glen Powers, concerning his opposition to the Federal Communications Commission's implementation of new micro-radio regulations

I have enclosed a copy of his letter to me and my reply for your information; no reply is necessary.

Thank you for your attention to the concerns of my constituents.

Sincerely,

*Ed*

Ed Bryant, M.C.

EGB:als

Enclosure

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July 6, 1999

Mr. Glen Powers  
V.P./General Manager  
122 Radio Road  
Jackson, TN 38301-1119

Dear Glen:

Thank you for contacting me with your support for H.R. 942 and your opposition to the Federal Communications Commission's implementation of new microradio regulations. I appreciate your taking the time to reach me, and I enjoy hearing your views.

I appreciate your service to the community, and I understand your need for clear and consistent regulations. H.R. 942, the Broadcast Ownership for the 21st Century Act, was introduced by Representative Cliff Stearns on March 2, 1999. This legislation would clarify and reduce the restrictions on broadcast media ownership. You may be assured that I will keep your views in mind should this bill come to the House floor for a vote.

I can certainly understand your concerns over the impact of low power radio on existing radio stations, and I think you make some good points. As you know, the Federal Communications Commission has proposed to license new 1000 watt and 100 watt low power FM (LPFM) radio stations, and also sought comment on establishing a third "microradio" class at power levels from 1-10 watts. These proposed regulations are still in the comment period phase - which has been extended to August 2, 1999 - so I have shared your comments with the Chairman of the Federal Communications Commission, so that he can have the benefit of your views on this matter. Please be assured that I will work with my colleagues to ensure that regulations which would harm the radio industry are not enacted.

Again, thank you for contacting me. Please continue to keep in touch. I look forward to hearing from you again.

Sincerely,



Ed Bryant, M.C.

EB:als



telecom



April 29, 1999

Congressman Ed Bryant  
1516 Longworth House Office Bldg.  
Washington, DC 20515-4208

Dear Congressman Bryant:

We are contacting you to request your support of H.R. 942, the "Broadcast Ownership for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Act", a bill introduced by Congressmen Cliff Stearns (R-FL) and Martin Frost (D-TX).

Provisions in this bill are essential for maintaining and sustaining the great progress that our stations have made to develop strong quality programming, particularly since the 1996 Telecommunications Act passed.

We are proud of the positive feedback that we are receiving from listeners and advertisers who have noticed changes in signal grades; on-air talent; local news, traffic and weather accuracy; and more substantive public service programming including political advertising and commentary.

We attribute many of these improvements to the foresight of Congress in promoting competition in our broadcast mediums by modifying antiquated ownership provisions in the 1996 Telecommunications Act and thus encouraging the industry to once again become a viable and attractive commercial source for advertisers.

Many of the provisions in the 1996 Act are clear as to Congressional intent, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), in most cases, carried out the will of Congress. We adhered to the rules and statutes and developed going-forward business plans based on the law, regulations and FCC practiced procedures. Unfortunately, it is our understanding that the FCC is considering tightening the rules, in essence, derailing our future business plans, which will continue to promote the advances in quality programming that we have accomplished in the last few years.

H.R. 942 provides the statutory basis for the FCC practices on which we have made our business decisions. Passage will provide stability to our individual stations and allow them to continue to provide the type of premium programming that you have come to expect from us.

*"SEA Star . . . People Who Know How to Get Results"*

122 Radio Road • Jackson, Tennessee 38301-1119 • (901) 427-3316 • Fax (901) 427-4576

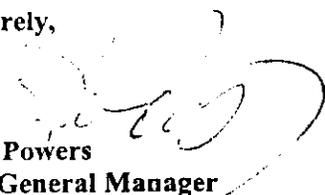


On a related matter, we are working with Congressmen Stearns and Frost and others to support language that would derail an effort by the FCC to implement Low Power FM stations or microradio. This initiative would allow the FCC to create hundreds of new radio stations with a five to ten mile radius of signal coverage. Interference criteria that have been established for current stations would be restructured and almost every existing station in America would receive strong interference from the new stations. Our listeners, advertisers and investors who have supported us in good faith, never assuming that the signal coverage area would be degraded for such a concept, will lose if this program is created. Finally, the proposal allows these Low Power stations to operate with less regulation than established stations. Therefore, new inexperienced station owners will be running radio stations with less regulation than applies to experienced station owners.

As you are well aware in the early 1990s, the radio industry was in deep trouble. We were not attracting advertisers and many stations went into receiverships and bankruptcies. Currently, radio only pulls in 7% of the total advertising dollars spent in a market. We are not being melodramatic when we convey to you that should microradio come to pass, we are certain that our industry would take another downturn. We are strongly opposed to this initiative and hope that you will support us on this matter.

Should you have any questions, feel free to contact me or Vicki Iseman at (703) 841-0626. Your expeditious response to this request would be much appreciated.

Sincerely,



Glen Powers  
V.P./General Manager

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