

From: Ian Sean Palast <ipalast@eccompany.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Wed, Jul 21, 1999 3:28 PM
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 Ian Sean Palast (ipalast@eccompany.com) on Wednesday, July 21, 1999 at 14:28:57

comments: I support the creation of a LPFM radio system in the US. I think that such a system is imperative for the future health of our democracy. Certainly a nation as great as ours, which provides its citizens with a right to bear arms, can find it within itself to provide its citizens with the right to access its public airwaves.

address: 461 Nothlake Drive

address2: #48

city: San Jose

state: CA

zip: 95117

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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

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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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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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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:
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education
David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,
publishers of YES Magazine

Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
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

From: cmoebius <cmoebius@dc.ce.org>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 12:39 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,

Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.

cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
Corinna Moebius -- Director, Interactive Media, Children's Express

Additional Comments=As the Director of Interactive Media for Children's Express and an active volunteer in my DC community, I know how important it is to provide a forum for community members to discuss local issues, express views and concerns, announce local events and so forth. All too often people of color, immigrants and youth are "re-presented" negatively in mainstream media, without an opportunity to express their own perspectives and accounts. All too often community members are not aware of localname=Corinna Moebius
street=2714 Quarry Rd. NW #102
city=Washington
state=DC
zip=20009
=Send to FCC

From: "Beaver, Nathan A." <nabeaver@venable.com>
To: "bkennard@fcc.gov" <bkennard@fcc.gov>, "sness@f...
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 11:48 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

DK99-25

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

I worked at a college radio station for 3 years during college and have seen the effects of the mass commercialization of radio stations by several large corporate owners. Low power has the opportunity to bring back an important medium to the masses. I support the creations of low power stations.

Nathan Beaver
 1758 T St., NW
 Washington, DC 20009

 This electronic mail transmission may contain confidential or privileged information. If you believe that you have received the message in error, please notify the sender by reply transmission and delete the message without copying or disclosing it.

From: ILSR <ilsr@igc.org>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 12:56 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 20584
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,
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 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Nicholas Hanlon
street=3720 R St.
city=Washington
state=DC
zip=20007
=Send to FCC

From: Mat Polutta <mpolutta@i3solutions.com>
To: "bkennard@fcc.gov" <bkennard@fcc.gov>, "sness@f...
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 12:20 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

From: Brian Geiger <elgenio99@aol.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 12:28 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Brian Geiger (elgenio99@aol.com) on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 11:28:33

comments: I support the low power radio movement.

address: 20327 Woodland Way

city: Pass Christian

state: MS

zip: 39571

Submit: Send to FCC

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DK99-25

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AUG 02 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

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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

Handwritten signature

DK 99-25

From: Michael Heit <bearman@in-tch.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 12:35 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Michael Heit (bearman@in-tch.com) on Thursday, July 22, 1999 at 11:35:41

comments: Please give us a chance against the "big guys", that is what America is all about. God Bless you and thank you for your time and attention to this matter.
Michael Heit.

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AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: P.O. Box 129

city: Elmo, Montana 59915

state: 406

zip: 849-5853

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

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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

From: Elizabeth Samworth <samwor@gunet.georgetown.edu>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...
Date: Thu, Jul 22, 1999 12:36 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,
 Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Elizabeth Samworth
street=1650 Harvard St. NW #214
city=Washington
state=DC
zip=20009
=Send to FCC