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DK.99-25

From: annie <annette.koh@yale.edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 7:00 AM
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 ClintonVice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED
AUG 02 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

As a former student journalist, avid and active citizen-activist, and 2nd generation American, I look forward to the re-democratization of the airwaves. Considering the current conflict between an arbitrary Pacifica foundation and local community programmers, it has never been more imperative to reclaim America's radiowaves for local, non-profit, community-based endeavors who will always be accessible and accountable to the people they serve, unlike the giant media monopolies. Please ensure that democratic processes can continue to thrive in the 21st century. Thank you

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

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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), 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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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
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Ellen Braune--Publicist
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
Annette S. Koh - Yale Alumna, Voter, P.O. Box 206498, New Haven CT 06520

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
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: XAkk Gilder <czar_xakk@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 5:26 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by XAkk Gilder (czar_xakk@hotmail.com)
on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 04:26:42

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comments: As a lover of culturally diverse media programming, especially informative and educational alternatives, I agree with the statements made in the above letter wholeheartedly. In a world of crass commercialism and impersonal media, I feel that the public can only benefit from LPFM radio. Please consider the minority of the population that, when thought of as just that, actually comprise a rather impressive number of people who are being alienated and "missed" for the simple fact that they choose not to partake of the "mainstream" media's offerings. They deserve the option, and in this land of opportunity, I see that reality. Thank you for your time and consideration.

address: P.O. Box 1993

city: St. Cloud

state: MN

zip: 56302

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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Washington, DC 20554

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cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV
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,

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DK-99-25

From: Lupito Flores <lupito@owt.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 11:14 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Guadalupe C. Flores
street=624 W. Entiat #5
city=Kennewick
state=WA
zip=99336
=Send to FCC

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DK-99-25

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Janice Bailey <jkbail@grolen.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 7:45 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Janice Bailey (jkbail@grolen.com)
on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 18:45:37

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comments: I am an instructor in the communications department at a local community college and feel a low power station would be an invaluable tool in teaching students about the possibilities of radio...those possibilities including the ability to present views not necessarily available on the stations broadcasting in our city.

The chance to teach young people to program their own radio station and learn about the viability of music and talk other than the few songs and talk shows currently heard on corporate owned stations would be both empowering and revelatory for a population that too often sees itself shut out of the national "conversations" about public policy.

address: 315 Canal Street

city: Manchester

state: NH

zip: 03101

Submit: Send to FCC

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Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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DK-99-25

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AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: Janice Bailey <jkbail@grolen.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 7:45 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Janice Bailey (jkbail@grolen.com)
on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 18:45:37

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comments: I am an instructor in the communications department at a local community college and feel a low power station would be an invaluable tool in teaching students about the possibilities of radio...those possibilities including the ability to present views not necessarily available on the stations broadcasting in our city.

The chance to teach young people to program their own radio station and learn about the viability of music and talk other than the few songs and talk shows currently heard on corporate owned stations would be both empowering and revelatory for a population that too often sees itself shut out of the national "conversations" about public policy.

address: 315 Canal Street

city: Manchester

state: NH

zip: 03101

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,

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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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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: robert g. skinner <tzolty@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 8:35 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by robert g. skinner (tzolty@hotmail.com)
on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 19:35:38

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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comments: MicroRadio is the FUTURE of Radio.

address: 225 1/2 N 36th. St.

city: seattle

state: wa

zip: 98103

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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