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From: Michael Rollins <Rollinsm@Carleton.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 27, 1999 5:28 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

99-25

This email was submitted by Michael Rollins (Rollinsm@Carleton.edu) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 16:28:38

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comments: I am in favor of free trade. I am favor of capitalism.
We do not live in a capatalist society. We live in an increasingly feudal society.
One glaring example is that of the entertainment and news industry: not only have the number of hands controlling our nation's media lessened in number, they have also come to resemble one another to an enervating degree. This is dangerous for any democracy. The new radio status quo is one in which very few new and/or innovative stations can become commercial successes. The danger for our artistic media is that of stagnation and an increase in the culture of lawlessness that permeates that part of our society which innovates and creates. Simply put: the mainstream sucks. Anyone doing anything interesting has to break the law to get heard, and so anyone who might be otherwise furthering our society is instead taught to break the law.

Legalize creativity.

address: Home: Hawaii

address2: 300 North College St.

city: Northfield

state: MN

zip: 55057

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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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.

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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.

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of last resort.

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
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Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University

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Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots
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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

From: chris smith <chrismith@earthlink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Tue, Jul 27, 1999 6:07 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
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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

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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Autho
Additional Comments=
name=Chris Smith
street=680 Manhattan ave #14
city=Brooklyn
state=NY
zip=11222
=Send to FCC

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RECEIVED
AUG - 6 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: David McConville c/o Alternate Realities Corporation <id@virtual-reality.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Tue, Jul 27, 1999 6:29 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by David McConville c/o Alternate Realities Corporation (id@virtual-reality.com) on Tuesday, July 27, 1999 at 17:29:17

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comments: The battle for control of the U.S. airwaves has been long and involved, reaching back to the 1920s and the establishment of the Federal Radio Commission (now the FCC). Even though most folks unquestionably assume that the FCC was established and exists to prevent anarchy on the airwaves, recent scholarly research paints a very different picture.

Since its inception, federal broadcast regulators seem to have focused more of their energies on protecting established interests and limiting what we can hear and see than protecting us from the "chaos" of a more open broadcast spectrum. Well, they've succeeded. They're now crushing the fly with a hammer.

In 1980, after a ten year lobbying effort by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, the FCC removed the Class-D 10-watt radio licensing classification. This made it impossible for anyone wanting to run a low-power radio station (under 100 watts) to even apply for a legal broadcaster's license. This largely unnoticed change in federal communications policy guaranteed that the "public" representations would solely be the domain NPR-style stations.

To add insult to injury, the CPB has had its funding cut back by Congress considerably as a result of numerous "controversies" over the past few years (c'mon, you always knew Big Bird was gay). The net result? Not only is the freedom to broadcast over our airwaves legislated away from us, but even the public corporation that is supposed to be Our Voice is being forced to increasingly rely on commercial sponsors (sorry, "underwriters").

Furthermore, the Telecommunications Act of 1996 made possible the concentration of media outlets into fewer and fewer hands under the guise of a "public service". Does this sound like all-out corporate control of the mass media to you?

Are legislators really preventing anarchy and moral decay by keeping shit, piss, fuck, cunt, cocksucker, motherfucker, and tits away from you? And what exactly does the FCC hope to achieve by sending federal paramilitary forces to raid low-power broadcasters and holding them at gunpoint until their equipment is confiscated? In an age where independent, non-commercial radio stations are playing an increasingly important social and political role in numerous countries around the world, isn't it ironic that the some of the hardest crackdowns on unlicensed broadcaster has come about in the U.S.? Why doesn't the FCC just grant licenses to these small stations to avoid all the fuss? Hmmmm.

Sound too weird to be true? Check out http://www.disinfo.com/disinfo?p=folder&title=Pirate+Radio and see for yourself. If you're sick of having most of the radio spectrum being the exclusive realm of intolerable easy listening, tired hard rock, banal morning shows, and the pabulum of pop, pick up that soldering iron or get involved with some community radio. And the next time you hear a fund drive sponsored by the Supermarket to the World or a 30 minute expose on the President's sex life on your public radio station, remember that it's no accident.

address: 1301 South Briggs Ave.

address2: Suite 100

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city: Durham

state: NC

zip: 27703

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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Commissioner Michael Powell
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.

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

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From: john j payne <jpayne@webgrafxx.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Aug 2, 1999 11:03 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

This email was submitted by john j payne (jpayne@webgrafxx.com)
on Monday, August 2, 1999 at 22:03:03
---

address: 5300 old forge circle

city: raleigh

state: nc

zip: 27609

Submit: Send to FCC

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To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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List ABCDE

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.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

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

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued

expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

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,

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