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From: John Fetterly <johnfetterly@hotmail.com>  
To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
Date: Mon, Aug 2, 1999 8:47 PM  
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by John Fetterly (johnfetterly@hotmail.com) on Monday, August 2, 1999 at 19:47:06

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: Dear FCC,

I just wanted to take a moment to express my support for the current Microradio movement. I personally think automatic governmental monopoly of the airwaves was a dubious thought when the FCC was founded, let alone today. Obviously some sort of logistical association was needed, but the top-down structure was entirely unwarranted. Today we live with the results of that structure. The radio-scape is bland and repetitive. The inane logic of advertising and "target demographics" dictates. The World is represented as a massive projection of New York, L.A., and D.C. upon a featureless globe. The few tell the many the way it is.

Microradio will continue with or without FCC support. This is your opportunity to make allies or enemies of a wide variety of citizens. Don't assume that this is a demographic that will forget this issue easily, either. Microradio cuts across a broad range of classes, regions, and ethnicities, but many of the folks I know who are active exhibit the common traits of enthusiasm, intelligence, and initiative. They probably wouldn't be broadcasting if they didn't.

I live in the San Francisco Bay Area. We seem to have more radio stations here than anywhere I've ever been, even L.A. With all those "choices" the content remains desolately boring, with the exceptions of NPR, the college stations, and a publicly supported jazz station. I'd like to hear a lot more regional programming created by/for/and about the Bay Area, but it isn't likely unless Microradio is reconsidered.

It sure would be nice to turn on Free Radio Berkley again.

John Fetterly, Student, Information Technician

address: \*\*\*\*\*

address2: \*\*\*\*\*

city: Alameda

state: CA

zip: 94502

Submit: Send to FCC

No. of Copies rec'd 2  
List ABCDE

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](mailto:mec@tao.ca)) and Americans for Radio Diversity ([ard@radparker.com](mailto: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.

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.

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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,

MEC Honorary Chair:  
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:

Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia  
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  
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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

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: phillip brenner <kindred@inetworld.net>  
To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
Date: Mon, Aug 2, 1999 7:42 PM  
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by phillip brenner (kindred@inetworld.net) on Monday, August 2, 1999 at 18:42:25

address: 5750 #8 Amaya drive

city: lamesa

state: ca

zip: 91942

Submit: Send to FCC

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
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Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
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cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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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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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.
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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**From:** kenneth j. kohlmyer <kennethk@snap.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 2, 1999 6:23 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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AUG 06 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by kenneth j. kohlmyer (kennethk@snap.com) on Monday, August 2, 1999 at 17:23:15

comments: I support microradio.

As multinational corporations grow in power, all the while merging with more diverse forms of media, these small radio stations become even more essential. See GE-NBC-Snap, or Disney-ABC-ESPN-Go Networks. This is a disturbing trend, a trend which further limits consumers' choices.

These small stations are important for the simple fact that they offer a different voice, less controlled by commercial interests. Diversity of opinion and voice are what this country was founded upon.

Sincerely,

kenneth j. kohlmyer  
editor  
snap.com

address: 46 albion

city: san francisco

state: CA

zip: 94103

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  
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
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From: Joan Hebert <JoanHTeria@AOL.com>  
To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
Date: Mon, Aug 2, 1999 6:29 PM  
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Joan Hebert (JoanHTeria@AOL.com) on Monday, August 2, 1999 at 17:29:40

comments: The overwhelming ownership of all of the media except microradio by big businesses is seriously reducing the breath and accuracy of information available in many smaller towns and rural parts of our country. Please give local communities a chance to express themselves.

address: 5455 8th St

city: Carpinteria

state: CA

zip: 93013

Submit: Send to FCC

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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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:** <KGAGE@aol.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(SSEGAL,BKENNARD),K5DOM.K5PO2(HFURCHTG)...  
**Date:** Sat, Jul 31, 1999 1:03 AM  
**Subject:** CC Docket 99-200--We Support LPFM!

To the FCC and the Honorable William Kennard,

I am writing on behalf of myself and my girlfriend. We have tried on a number of occasions to sign on to a letter from the Media Empowerment Coalition in support of the legalization of low-power FM radio (LPFM), but each time your email server has returned our email with a message that it will not accept it. We decided, therefore, to write a personal message, letting the FCC know that we support LPFM and believe, as well, that it must be non-commercial and community based. We believe that this must be so because if this is not a non-commercial service, it will be overrun by those not interested in the common good so important to the maintenance of a healthy democracy and if it is not community based, it will be overtaken by absentee owners, disinterested in the communities to which they broadcast, also detrimental to a healthy democracy.

I am a teaching assistant and graduate student at the University of Florida in Gainesville, FL (my hometown) and my girlfriend, Kimberly, is a health professional. We tell you this because we would like to frame our support for LPFM by telling you what it is like in our town of Gainesville.

A little more than a year ago, the local newspaper, "The Gainesville Sun," did a poll about radio in Gainesville. They found that the vast majority of people in our city were extremely dissatisfied with our radio offerings. Many of them expressed regret over the fact that the lone community radio station, 97X, had closed down shortly before this poll. 97X was a vibrant and original voice on the airwaves, but it had been bought out by a Philadelphia based corporation. Thousands signed petitions asking this corporation not to change the format of 97X and this corporation kept saying they'd made no format decisions, up until the day they took control. When they did take control, they immediately fired all staff and went to a format of canned, syndicated talk. Our community lost jobs due to these firings and we lost a wonderful voice in our community. This corporation gained money and nothing else.

On the other hand, there has been a small low-power station, Free Radio Gainesville, broadcasting in our town for almost two years, which has done a lot to be involved in our community and fill the gaps missing in our radio scene. They featured not only the widest variety of music available in Gainesville, but also featured poetry, news, health and social issues, interviews with local leaders, and rebroadcasts of community events. They had no budget and operated off of volunteer labor and benefit shows, yet they enjoyed local support, not only of the citizens, but of a large number of local businesses. The city council even passed a resolution supporting LPFM based on the efforts of Free Radio Gainesville!

Unfortunately, Free Radio Gainesville is no longer on the air, due to the heavy handed tactics of your commission and that's a shame. A big corporation with no interest in our town robs us of a great station and community resource--and they're rewarded by the law. A great volunteer run community station tries to fill the gap--and they're threatened with prison time and huge fines. Something is wrong here and we've seen it in our own town.

It is time the FCC allowed communities to establish low-power FM stations which are community based and non-commercial. The big media corporations have made their money and these LPFM stations will be no threat to them. Please allow communities like Gainesville, FL to take back their

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airwaves and their communities in some small way.

Sincerely,  
Joshua Utley and Kimberly Gage  
603 NE 4th Ave  
Apt. A  
Gainesville, FL

CC: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","frg@afn.org")

**ORIGINAL**

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**From:** <Deborah\_Katz@ingerrand.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 2, 1999 6:49 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25s

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

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.

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

My name and address:

Deborah Katz  
109 Bartlett Street, #404  
San Francisco, CA 94110

Independent radio and microbroadcasting is very important in a free-speech democracy.

The airwaves belong to the people. Please make some radio access for affordable and available to the general public. Please stop penalizing microbroadcasters. I feel that this is a critical issue.

Thanks.

ORIGIN

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**From:** <tames@corp.atl.com>  
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...  
**Date:** Mon, Aug 2, 1999 6:06 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,  
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Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth  
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Teresa Ames

street=PMB #245, 4509 Interlake Avenue North

city=Seattle

state=WA

zip=98103

=Send to FCC