ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

99-25

From: Lesley Laing <llaing@uswest.net>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","...
Date: Sat, Jul 31, 1999 8:26 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

AUG 12 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

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.

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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.

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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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
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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=While I do not pretend to fully understand the technical issues of Low Power FM broadcasting, I do understand and support the necessity of community based broadcasting to the future of democracy in this nation. Therefore, I am adding my name and support to the concerns and recommendations expressed in this letter. Lesley Laing
name=Lesley Laing
street=8734 Wagner Creek Road
city=Talent
state=OR
zip=97540
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Chris Thompson <hardpartyangel@yahoo.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 31, 1999 7:56 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Chris Thompson (hardpartyangel@yahoo.com)
on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at 06:56:11

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comments: The Government:Took land from Indians.
Taxed our tea. Lied in our faces!
And treat us like 3 year olds.
Tell us what to believe .
Limit our opportunities by more Laws that They can't even keep.
And gives us their ass to kiss.
Hey they've done a great job! Yeah Right!
Just turn on a tv you'll see how their great society is working!
Back Off of the bogus laws already!
The Air is ours! Not Yours!!!!

RECEIVED

AUG 12 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 4958 Amity Lane

address2: http:www.mp3.com/hardparty

city: Iron Station

state: NC

zip: 28080

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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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
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Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
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George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
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Juliet Schor--Harvard University
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Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
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Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program
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Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
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David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

99-25

From: Megan Renee McCracken <Sansoley@aol.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 31, 1999 6:02 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Megan Renee McCracken (Sansoley@aol.com)
on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at 05:02:46

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comments: I strongly support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the U.S.

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AUG 12 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 15924 Alicante Rd.

city: La Mirada

state: Ca

zip: 90638

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: michael haskett <rhya5@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Mon, Aug 2, 1999 4:16 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by michael haskett (rhya5@hotmail.com)
on Monday, August 2, 1999 at 15:16:26

---

comments: i agree w/ all above

address: 900 s. philips ave

city: sioux falls

state: sd

zip: 57104

Submit: Send to FCC

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AUG 12 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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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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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
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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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From: <pcampanello@earthlink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Mon, Aug 2, 1999 4:05 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

RECEIVED
AUG 12 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,

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.

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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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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=Please honor the 1st Amendment with supporting micro radio. We need better access to our public airwaves.
Please legalize now the non-commercial, one-owner, community based low power FM radio.
We plan to start one up in Sacramento for the benefit of this community by offering citizens an opportunity to discuss issues that are not either permitted or is not the interest of the commercial ra

name=Phyllis Campanello

street=1824 Markham Way

city=Sacramento

state=Ca

zip=95818

=Send to FCC