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**From:** Peter Mitchell <peter@911media.org>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Sat, Jul 31, 1999 12:06 PM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

This email was submitted by Peter Mitchell (peter@911media.org)  
 on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at 11:06:39

comments: As Communications Director for a non-profit media center,  
 911 Media Arts Center in Seattle. I support the vital  
 importance of diverse forms of communications.

address: 911 Media Arts Center

address2: 117 Yale Ave N

city: Seattle

state: WA

zip: 98109

Submit: Send to FCC

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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  
 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.

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 List ABCDE

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.
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,

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

Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio

David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio

Stuart Ewen -- Author

Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program

Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)

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,

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

ORIGINAL

FX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Dave Arney <arney@softhome.net>  
 To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
 Date: Sat, Jul 31, 1999 12:29 PM  
 Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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AUG 12 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by Dave Arney (arney@softhome.net)  
 on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at 11:29:58

comments: The airwaves are being controlled by entirely too few interests. When I started looking into switching to a broadcast model, we were told to forget it- that it was too expensive and complicated. The arguments against LPFM: that it'll interfere with relay stations and closely spaced commercial stations are largely bunk- my 5 or even 100 watt station is NOT going to jam the 50kW station for more than a radius of about 10 feet.

Right now, if I want to broadcast music that isn't being played on commercial radio- and believe me there's a lot they aren't doing, from classical to the latest dance, techno, etc. there's no legal way I can do it. And I'm lucky enough to live in a town with a college station that allows community members access. But they're just too full. More stations would help diversify the voices on the air.

I used to think the FCC was an evil, if non-effectual beurocracy. That this topic even came up- that you even considered LPFM- helped change my mind. The airwaves should be made available to the people!

address: 205 North Dartmouth

city: Kalamazoo

state: MI

zip: 49006

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Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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ORIGINAL

09-25

From: Mike Jacobson <Nyghtfyr@aol.com>  
To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
Date: Sat, Jul 31, 1999 11:56 AM  
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Mike Jacobson (Nyghtfyr@aol.com) on Saturday, July 31, 1999 at 10:56:39

comments: Handing over radio communications in this country to the corporate giants is not only illegal, it is stupid. Raids on local low-power stations have portrayed the ugly picture of radio today: Get with the big guys, or die.

I do not \*like\* any of the corporate-owned radio stations in my city, Cleveland. Most intelligent people here will tell you that there are vast wastelands of airspace here, with perhaps one or two exceptions. If local spanish-language stations are being shut down for what I'm listening to, I think the government has its priorities a tad mixed. The only stations I listen to are two college-run stations, which are slightly better, and NPR. NPR, though, cannot act as a local fourm, for it is NATIONAL public radio. Local public radio is necessary as well.

I am happy that you have chosen to address this issue, and hope that you take action benefiting all those who wish to see the airwaves public space once more.

- Mike Jacobson

address: 25394 Tyndall Falls Dr.

city: Olmsted Falls

state: Ohio

zip: 44138

Submit: Send to FCC

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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**FX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

**From:** David J. Sweeney <dsweeney@innet.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Sun, Aug 1, 1999 8:40 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

This email was submitted by David J. Sweeney (dsweeney@innet.com) on Sunday, August 1, 1999 at 07:40:36

comments: I beleive that LPFM will greatly assist those small communities that have been disenfranchised by the large commercial stations that ignore their needs.

**RECEIVED**

AUG 12 1999

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 18127 Moorhaven Dr

city: Spring Hill

state: FL

zip: 34610-7141

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

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Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
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George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
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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:** Denis T. Kirk Jnr <gascon@acmecity.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Sun, Aug 1, 1999 8:19 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Denis T. Kirk Jnr (gascon@acmecity.com) on Sunday, August 1, 1999 at 07:19:10

comments: Rememeber - the radio is the theatre of the mind.

address: England

address2: United Kingdom

city: London

state: -----

zip: EC2

Submit: Send to FCC

**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  
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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One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that

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**ORIGINAL**

**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

**From:** Jerry A. Pounds <jerrap@hotmail.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Sun, Aug 1, 1999 1:55 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

This email was submitted by Jerry A. Pounds (jerrap@hotmail.com) on Sunday, August 1, 1999 at 00:55:57

comments: I think it is essential for small radio stations to exist. With this they would be able to challenge the stranglehold large conglomerates have. I am a college student and the only entertaining thing to listen to for me is college radio. If you do this for anything, do it so Americans don't get bored. Thank you

address: 8843 Naples St NE

city: Blaine

state: MN

zip: 55449

Submit: Send to FCC

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AUG 12 1999

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
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Commissioner Susan Ness  
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