

Before the

Federal Communications Commission
Washington, D.C. 20554

In the Matter of
Proposal for Creation of the Low Power FM
(LPFM) Broadcast Service
Docket No. MM 99-25

To: Federal Communications Commission

Comments of Andrew J Garber

First and most importantly: The idea of creating LPFM and then restricting it to non-commercialization, seems to be self-defeating. Why bother? Why even waste the time, energy and paper it takes to talk about it? Without the power of commercialization, I can't imagine how a LPFM station is supposed to even operate. It is my understanding that the whole reason LPFM was petitioned for creation was to create radio stations that played alternative and community based programming on a format that had better audio fidelity than AM. As a recording engineer and a musician, I cannot even begin to explain the benefits LPFM would bring to the industry in my hometown. Music in general has become extremely commercial, restricted, and preferred. To have a LPFM station in my town would open up lots of opportunities for lots of people on a local level. Secondly, the commercials on FM stations are costly. The current state of Radio advertisement is not affordable to smaller business and/or Mom and Pop vendors. With percentage points dictating the number of available ad hours and driving up the prices, how does the little guy stand a chance? I am personally appalled by the attempt of large corporate radio conglomerates to sabotage and clog up the progression of LPFM. As if they don't make enough money already. With big ad dollars coming from the majors like Coke, Bud, and others, don't you think there's enough room for the little guy to step and grab some bucks from Mom and Pop? Then there's this bit about auctioning off what licenses will be available. Why should you even let the people who own upper class stations have the ability to buy? All they're going to do is step in and buy everything up because they don't want any competition from the little guy, who can't even touch them. Is there any way to stop this madness???? Even if the big boys are restricted from buying LPFM they will probably just make contracts with other people and have them buy the license for them. If these people are to be allowed to buy these LPFM licenses they must be restricted on bidding percentages. If the playing field is not leveled, LPFM will be a complete disaster. I agree with many of the items put forth in the petition/ proposal RM-9242 and do strongly urge the FCC to grant LPFM the ability for commercialization.

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