

To the FCC Commissioners and any other parties:

I would urge the adoption of new licensing rules permitting commercial low-powered FM stations. Our community is the perfect example of why LPFM is so urgently needed.

San Juan County, Washington is composed of 172 islands, most of them inhabited. We have no "voice" of our own, except for two small weekly newspapers, which US mail delivers to only 5 islands.

A small unlicensed station was started in the past, and was instantly and universally praised as being what the community needed to unify it. It finally had its own voice, and desperately needed emergency services capability. When the FCC ordered the station to shut down, it did so immediately, but the community was heartsick.

2000 people signed a petition requesting permission for the station continue (in a county of only 10,000!). The County Commissioners, County Sheriff, Mayor of the only town in the County, etc. all sent letters to the FCC along with the petitions, explaining why a small radio station was so desperately needed--to no avail.

A small station of modest power could easily cover the entire island community. County-specific emergency broadcasting, and news of available County services would be made available to the outlying islands.

The station would have to be commercial to survive. Like many small communities, the economics would never sustain a non-commercial license. Equally important, a commercial license would make low-cost advertising available to local merchants. Weekly newspapers are ineffective. Mainland radio stations are way too costly, since they are priced to reflect a listening audience 99% of whom will never take the 4 hour round trip ferryboat ride (8 hrs in the summer) to purchase island goods or services. Only a commercial license will permit the small station owner to survive, and give the local merchant affordable access to the airwaves.

I am not an expert, but I understand present technology would permit low-power FM without creating difficulties for existing broadcasters. You know better than I, but I presume the FCC would not have proposed the new class of license if it couldn't be made to work.

PLEASE give the "little guy" commercially viable access to the airwaves. Listen to your common sense and your hearts on this, not the NAB and other media "big guys".

Thank you very much.

Ron Gordon