

A couple weeks ago, looking out my office window, I saw smoke fire on the mountains surrounding our valley. I immediately tuned to a local FM radio station. They were broadcasting a syndicated satellite program. I then tuned to all the other location stations. Every local station in our valley was broadcasting syndicated satellite programming. I spoke with a manager at one of the stations about it. He claimed that they are required by contract to play a certain number of commercials during those time periods and that they could not break away to cover the fire. I don't believe this attitude serves the public interest. I believe LPFM is needed so cover the gaps created by today's automated/syndicated radio stations. Although some of these stations attempt to be local, I don't believe they do a good at it because they don't do anything without compensation. If LPFM licenses are placed in the hands of people like myself, the focus will not be money. The focus will be serving the public interest, not because we have to, but because we want to.

Sincerely,

Patrick Linstruth