

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LAST FILED

From: jesse ventura <rza@m-net.arbornet.org>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNAP)
Date: Mon, Aug 30, 1999 1:28 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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.

RECEIVED

SEP 03 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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",

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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.
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,

Juan Carlos Revollo
3842 Columbia Pike
Arlington, VA 22204

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

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana
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Education
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

From: Valentin Rivera <None@www.fcc.gov>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Fri, Aug 20, 1999 1:55 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Valentin Rivera (None) writes:

Dear Mr. kennard,

I was handed a copy of a fax from the NAB today. It is a sample letter for lawmakers to send you. It seems that the NAB will simply not give up.

I want to give you my continued support for the service that you intend to provide for us, the people living in the "Harlems" and "South Bronxs" of the greatest Nation in the World.

Do not give in Mr. Kennard. For every person opposing LPFM, there are 50,000 of us standing behind you.

As I understand, certain studies have been conducted with reference to LPFM. Personnaly, I would not trust any study handed down from the NAB. But as I communicated in a previous e-mail, please suggest that the Power-definition of low power be 100W or at maximum 200W. Our comunities will be well served at this Power level.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Your brother in Christ,

Valentin Rivera
(718)792-1007

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 168.191.59.216
Remote IP address: 168.191.59.216

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ORIGINAL

From: mark robinson <livesidog23@yahoo.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca", ...
Date: Wed, Aug 18, 1999 11:35 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

=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,
 Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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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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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Mark Robinson
street=180 Evergreen Dr.
city=Lancaster
state=PA
zip=17601
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: <DkbBW@aol.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...
Date: Fri, Aug 20, 1999 5:06 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 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,
 Bill Bradley, and George W Bush
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Signed,

D.K. Berman
6 W. 90th St. Apt 5
New York, NY 10024

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Charles Couchman <ccouchman@earthlink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...
Date: Sat, Aug 21, 1999 10:36 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
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Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)
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Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Charles Couchman
street=498 F Mt. Hope Ave.
city=Rochester
state=NY
zip=14620
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

From: "lisa" <lisa.rollins@cgu.edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MICRORADIO EMPOWERMENT COALITION)
Date: Sat, Aug 21, 1999 11:51 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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,
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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SEP 03 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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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Sincerely,

L. M. Rollins
518 Towne Ave #2
Claremont, CA 91711

=====

Director/Editor UBWENGE
check out Ubwenge on the web!
<http://www.geocities.com/Athens/Oracle/9061>

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Cory <lhelmle@earthlink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sun, Aug 22, 1999 2:38 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 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,
 Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25

Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=For a democratic society to function, it is absolutely necessary for a free distribution of information. These low power radio stations will be a wonderful way for normal people to spread their ideas, and I feel it would likely lead to a rise in voter registration and voting, and generally bring a glimmer of democracy back to America. Thank you for heeding my concern.

name=Cory Helmle

street=1118 Hollyhead Lane

city=Cupertino

state=CA

zip=95014

=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: "B. Russell" <boop@loop.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sun, Aug 22, 1999 3:17 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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SEP 03 1999

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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 Commissioner Susan Ness
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 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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MM Docket No. 99-25

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Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Efia Nwangaza--Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Movement for Self Determination
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Bill Russell
street=30 South St
city=Chagrin Falls
state=OH
zip=44022
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

From: "a. white" <awhite@mindspring.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Tue, Aug 24, 1999 6:42 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

=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

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99-25

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

Additional Comments=
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city=Atlanta
state=GA
zip=30317
=Send to FCC

From: <HerbieT@aol.com>
 To: K2DOM.K2PO2(DBAUGUES,KSMITH,MBAGHDAD,SZWERLIN,VPHI...
 Date: Sun, Aug 1, 1999 1:11 AM
 Subject: PROCEEDING

7/29/99

Federal Communications Commission
 1919 M Street, N.W.
 Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:MM Docket 99-25

To: William E. Kennard, Chairman
 Susan Ness
 Harold W. Furchtgott-Roth
 Michael K. Powell
 Gloria Tristani

Dear Commissioners:

I support your efforts and urge you to pass rules establishing LPFM radio service.

Being a resident and native of Marion, Alabama (population 5,000), we are served by a wide variety of "Big City" radio stations 70 or more miles away. The local AM station (WAJO) is required to sign off at sunset. On May 8th, 1973, I became keenly aware that Marion needed some type of "LOCAL" broadcast station which would be available to the public after sunset. On that fateful day, during high school, I happened to be employed part time at WJAM AM (Now WAJO) as an announcer. That day, General Manager, Erle Wayne Hanna, also a native of Marion, kept the station on the air long after our usual sign off. Operating under emergency conditions, WJAM warned the citizens of adverse weather in the surrounding counties. Late that evening a powerful tornado ripped through Greensboro, Alabama, just 20 miles away. Due to Erle Wayne Hanna's leadership and ability, countless lives were saved. WJAM and it's staff were awarded a "SERVICE AWARD" from the National Weather Bureau.

Seeing the great importance that a "night time" service could provide, I and a number of other people had frequency searches conducted. In my case it proved futile. There was a 100,000 watt CP available, but that seemed too much for such a small town, and it was later moved. Now, with your proposal to create Low Power FM, Marion and many more small towns across the nation will have a chance to have a very much needed "LOCAL" broadcast service. For some towns it will be a very much needed primary service. For others, it would foster competition in places that need additional or alternative radio service. This is a service that lends itself perfectly to more access to minorities, students, community, business, and local religious activities.

I would like to see the 100 to 1000 watt class reserved for commercial use and the 1 to 10 watt class used for other uses - (COMMUNITY, EDUCATIONAL, RELIGIOUS, ETC).

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Please continue your good work in promoting new ideas and services for the American people. I salute your efforts in creating LPFM, and I look forward to hearing more about it's progress.

Sincerely,
Herb Tucker
412 Green Street
Marion, AL 37856