

This comment is being submitted to support the proposal to grant licenses for low power FM radio stations (LPFM). Although LPFM may represent competition to commercial broadcasters, it is time for the airwaves to be accessible to non-corporate interests. I believe that the public has a fundamental right to transmit and receive LPFM radio broadcasts that reflect their interests, and now is the time to grant licenses for such stations. Furthermore, it is my understanding that the reason that "pirate" radio stations have not been granted licenses is a Supreme Court decision that is based on the notion that because it costs money to broadcast, not all individuals have access to it. Although a small amount of money is needed (\$250 or thereabouts) to transmit, it is my belief that anyone with a strong desire to transmit radio will come up with the necessary funds to do so; such minute details should not keep potential broadcasters from being licensed. I would also like to voice strong opposition to the proposal of banning pirate radio stations from LPFM licenses, should they become available. People who have put the effort into creating a radio station from which the public can benefit should be the first to receive these licenses. I know that the NAB is a powerful lobby but they should not be allowed to trample on the public interest for the sake of profit. Please grant licenses for LPFM at your earliest convenience.

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