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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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THIS DATE
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September 1, 1999

Office of the Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: Docket 99-25

Dear Commissioners and other concerned parties:

I write to you as a concerned private citizen in regard to the issue of Low Power FM stations.

As a dedicated listener to non-commercial radio since the 1970s, when I began listening to WFDD in my home town of Winston-Salem, North Carolina, I want to state my unwavering support for those low-wattage stations, which we once referred to as "college stations," at the bottom of the FM dial.

The programming offered by many of these stations is unavailable elsewhere. Those of us without the funds to purchase music that falls outside of the mainstream market, and without access to the Internet, are in danger of losing a valuable resource.

I was a die-hard fan of WXYZ in Chapel Hill during my eight years on the University of North Carolina campus. After moving to New York, WFMU and other stations originating from the local colleges and universities have been valuable alternatives to the programming to be found on the more powerful commercial stations. The dedication displayed by the staff of WFMU alone in keeping their station on the air should be enough to settle this dispute in favor of the low-wattage broadcasters.

Please do not allow the FM dial to become the "vast wasteland" that Newton Minnow aptly characterized commercial television as years ago. Make it possible for the talented and dedicated people who provide this alternative to remain on the air, and seriously consider efforts to keep the "bottom of the dial" a territory sacred to broadcasting dedicated to non-commercial information and music.

I am sincerely yours,

Russell Flinchum

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