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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William E. Kennard
1919 M Street, N.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed rule making currently before the FCC regarding Low-Power FM Radio (LPFM). You may already be aware that the proposed rule making will create an entirely new class of radio, community radio. Design for, and run by local communities.

As a result of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, ownership of existing classes of AM and FM broadcast stations has been increasingly concentrated in a limited number of hands. Along with a resultant loss in the diversity of ownership, comes a loss in diversity of programming. Localism in broadcast programming has been taken away, replaced by mass media coverage.

I believe that the proposals set forth by the FCC will broaden the spectrum by which local voices can access the public forum.

Bring about new degree of Community participation and involvement.

Offer educational, information, and entertainment alternatives.

Create new opportunities for local small businesses, and broadcast ownership.

The escalating value of existing classes of broadcast stations has increasingly resulted in outlying stations shifting their focus toward nearby metropolitan areas, often at the expense of the communities these stations were originally intended to serve. Authorization of LPFM could return local broadcast service to many of these communities.

In addition, Rep. David E. Bonior of Michigan has composed a letter to be sent to FCC Chairman William Kennard on March 10th. If you agree with the LPFM proposed full making, I urge you to sign on to this letter. I have included a copy for your inspection.

Again, I urge you to support the FCC & Chairman Kennard on this rule making, and to let the other congressional leaders know that your constituents are demanding a voice in their communities.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

CARLOS MARTINEZ
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