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CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES

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July 22, 1999

James H. Maloney
5th District, Connecticut

THE HONORABLE WILLIAM E. KENNARD
CHAIRMAN, FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
445 12TH ST SW
WASHINGTON DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I am writing on behalf of one of my constituents and a national organization he chairs. The Amherst Alliance is a nationwide organization that supports media diversity. They are interested in actions the Commission is taking in regards to the establishment of a Low Power Radio Service.

Allowing low power FM radio stations on the air would empower local broadcasters to serve their communities with a variety of new voices and services. Low power radio stations would be able to address specific groups-- including minority groups, the religious community, and linguistic minorities-- and provide a forum for debate about important local issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win much attention from "mainstream" ratings-driven media.

Further, they would provide an outlet for the diverse, local voices and musicians that are presently priced out of the market. These stations would also provide advertising options for local businesses and increased employment opportunities in these communities. The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of a low power radio service would have wide support.

I would like to appiaud the efforts already made by the Commission to address this issue. I am hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power radio FM radio stations will soon become a reality. I look forward to hearing from you on this issue.

Banking and Financial
Services Committee

National Security
Committee

Please Respond to:

1213 Longworth Building
Washington, DC 20515
Phone: (202) 225-3822
Fax: (202) 225-5746

20 East Main Street
Room 240
Waterbury, CT 06702
Phone: (203) 573-1418
Fax: (203) 573-9329

Best regards -

Yours truly,

[Signature]
James H. Maloney
Member of Congress

JHM:JBN