

Hi,

I would like to briefly comment again on some other items in the LPFM issue.

First, I support the option of allowing microstation to be owned and operated and I want to encourage the FCC to hold on to this important option. I live in rural Montana. We do not have enough audience to support a larger radio station, but could support a smaller 10-50 watt station. Please do not take away this option for us. In our area microstation could eventually be a significant source of local information, especially since only a few larger out-of-state owned stations can be recieved.

Second, I support the idea that both commercial and non-commercial stations be allowed to operate LPFM stations and would encourage the FCC to do the same. If the FCC only allowed one group and not another to operate a LPFM station, it could look like the FCC is biasis in this matter. I would support a different licencing fee for a commercial station and a non-commercial station though since their funding sources are definately different.

Third, I would encourage the FCC to provide at least some limited protection to the LPFM station operator from the bigger commercial stations. In one community I lived in in Montana, there were 3 big stations that competed to see who could cover the most frequencis from 87fm through 107fm. It really made it difficult to listen to any of the better smaller stations (NPR and KJLF). I believe that they are required to stay within a certain frequency, but it seemed that they don't. So, I just want to encourage the FCC to provide some limited protection by saying that NO STATION, whether a big X mega-watts station or a little microwatt station shall broadcast outside of their licenced frequency. That would provide protection for all parties/stations involved and would not penalize one station over another - the playing ground would then be leveler. Otherwise, if there isn't some kind of incentive to behave, the big stations will just up their spread and interfere with the frequencies the smaller LPFM stations are legally operating on.

Thank you for allowing me this opportunity to share some more thoughts with you. In finalizing the rules, please do not penalize or discriminate against those of us who live in rural areas and cannot afford to operate a larger station. We aren't in it for the money anyways, we just want to provide a service to our small communities that the big guy in another state can't and doesn't provide.

Thank you,

Alan Gilda  
Canyon Creek, Mt.