ORIGINAL

From: Barin McGrath <ebmcgrath@yahoo.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","...
Date: Sun, Sep 19, 1999 5:45 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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OCT 01 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission

for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive,

local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest

issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream",

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profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.
In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.

2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.

3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.

4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property

should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying
for and receiving new licenses.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes

the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be

licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such
as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio
broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States

should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during

the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Edward B. McGrath
903 Fulton Ave #406
Sacramento, CA. 95825

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Bid and sell for free at http://auctions.yahoo.com

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

99-25

From: Glenn Austin <glenaus@gw.rmtaero.bfg.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 1999 5:04 PM
Subject: Docket 99-25 Comment Deadline Exstension

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman Kennard,

I am somewhat alarmed at the recent FCC decision to extend the reply comment deadline for docket 99-25 (NPRM for a Low-Power FM Service). The reason posted at http://www.fcc.gov/mmb/prd/lpfm/ states "The Commission anticipates adopting a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking regarding digital audio broadcasting on October 21, 1999. Reply comments in the LPFM proceeding will be due fourteen (14) days after the release of that item."

I can only assume that the Commission knew of pending digital broadcasting decisions prior to the last two deadline extensions. As I recall, the original reasons for extensions had nothing to do with the digital broadcasting decision. I am just a little curious as to why this is. Please advise.

Personally, I do not support the constant shifting of deadlines at the last minute . To me it appeared that this time around it was even done after the fact without notice in the September 17th daily digest (it finally appeared in the September 20th daily). As far as I can determine these deadline extensions have done nothing to improve the quality of debate in the proceeding and have done nothing but give the perception that the word of the FCC is not to be trusted. This is a perception that I have managed to avoid in the past and would prefer to avoid in the future.

Best Regards,

Glenn Austin
Minneapolis, MN
glenaus@concentric.net
glenn.austin@asd.bfg.com
612-381-1672

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99-325

From: Eddie J. Lollie <ejlollie@hotmail.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Wed, Sep 8, 1999 8:59 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Eddie J. Lollie (ejlollie@hotmail.com) writes:

I am a strong supporter of airwaves being opened for micro-broadcasting. The sad, bland, and self-servicing aspects of current commercial television and radio does nothing to satisfy my needs as a community member. I believe new and alternative ways of mass communication must be freed up for use by individuals and small interest groups.

While supporting the opening of new channels, I still believe that the currently operating television and FM stations need to continue to be supervised on minority information standards. Communication by definition always involves the listener as well as the speaker; therefore I believe that every individual has the right to hear his opinion expressed in mass broadcast. Voices are all meant to be heard.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 38.11.196.42
Remote IP address: 38.11.196.42

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From: Mal. P. Stevens <Eightohm@JPS.net>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Mon, Sep 13, 1999 2:37 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

ORIGINAL

Mal. P. Stevens (Eightohm@JPS.net) writes:

Micro Stations is a great idea for the public. Keep the big guys hands out of it. It is a voice for the public...WE are tired of the garbage that is put over OUR airways FROM THEM$. The permits for the Micro Stations should not be auctioned to the highest bidder but given on a first come basis AND THE STATIONS SHOULD BE FOR PUBLIC ACCESS..(REMEMBER THE GIVE AWAY OF THE SPECTRUM TO THE BIG GUYS)

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 208.237.196.134
Remote IP address: 208.237.196.134

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99-25

From: "w portier" <w.portier@worldnet.att.net>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Wed, Sep 1, 1999 9:15 AM
Subject: micro stations

The FCC should allow micro stations to exist under a not for profit status. As a supporter of commercial and public broadcasting I believe such a policy will help diversify and improve the communication fabric of our nation.

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99-25

From: Joe Knapp <joeknapp@a-ware.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Wed, Sep 1, 1999 4:46 PM
Subject: Low Power Radio

Thank you for your support of the Low Power Radio initiative. Don't let Edward Fritts stop you. He doesn't speak for everyone in the broadcast industry, no matter how much he thinks he does!

Joseph J. Knapp, President
A-Ware Software, Inc.

<joeknapp@a-ware.com>
800-326-2609
http://www.a-ware.com

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Steve Burke <sburke@ainet.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 1999 6:59 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

>MM Docket No. 99-25
>Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208
>
>
>Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,
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>We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission
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>for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the
>21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become
>increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media
>in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to
>public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use
>our radio airwaves.
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>diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not
>merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell
>them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press
>and free speech.
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>community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce
>and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture.
>Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting
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>Gloria Steinem--Ms.
>Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
>Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
Steve Burke--Community and Environmental Activist

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ORIGINAL

From: Kyle Benefiel <kyle.r.benefiel@Rose-Hulman.Edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K5DOM....
Date: Thu, Sep 16, 1999 9:39 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
Kyle Benefiel--College Student, Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology
Additional Comments=
name=Kyle Benefiel
street=101 Aspen St.
city=Marshall
state=IL
zip=62441
=Send to FCC

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99-25

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

From: "Randall Lampe" <randyudog@hotmail.com>
To: K5DOM.K5PO2(WKENNARD)
Date: Thu, Sep 16, 1999 6:53 PM
Subject: LPFM proposals, MM Docket #99-25 and #95-25

Re: NPRM #FCC 99-6, MM Docket #99-25 and #95-25:

I urge you to adopt rules for licensing Low Power FM radio that prioritize the needs of under-served and under-financed communities. Your office has the power and the mandate to ensure that ordinary people can claim a piece of the pie that big corporations have dominated and controlled for years. I am confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, I urge you to legalize microradio wih the following concerns in mind:

1. This should be a completely non-commercial service. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate to the constituents and their neighbors, not to make a profit. It should always be free of the muting influence that comes with pleasing advertisers.
2. Microradio licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for, and limited to one per license holder. They should NOT be granted to businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. No secondary status shoould be allowed, that is, microstations should not be subject to losing the frequencies just because someone else wants to set up a more powerful station in the neighborhood.
5. Microbroadcast pioneers, who created this moment by couragously committing civil disobedience in the tradition of Ghandi and Martin Luther King, and for their pains have suffered government seizure and fines, should receive amnesty, have their property returned, and be prioritized for new licenses. Perhaps organizations such as the KKK, which have been denied access to other public media due to their particular nature of espousing hatred, may be denied radio access on the same grounds.
6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to local voluntary micropower organizations for assistance or mediation (as is done in the ham radio world). Such a move would help serve the FCC in its deregulating and promote citizen participation in democracy. The FCC should be a forum of last resort.
7. LPFM must be included in the future of digital radio.

Thank you for your time and your consideration of these vital issues.

Sincerely,

Randall Lampe
POB 63458
Saint Louis, MO 63163
randyudog@hotmail.com
314-772-4223

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CC: K5DOM.K5PO2(hfurchtg),K1DOM.K1PO1(fccinfo),K2DOM.K...

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: Nickolaus E. Leggett <nleggett@earthlink.net>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Mon, Sep 6, 1999 9:57 AM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Nickolaus E. Leggett (nleggett@earthlink.net) writes:

Hello,
This is a copy of my letter to Representative Davis about Representative Tauzin and the FCC.
Nickolaus Leggett

Nickolaus E. Leggett
1432 Northgate Square, Apt. 2A
Reston, VA 20190-3748
(703) 709-0752
nleggett@earthlink.net

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September 4, 1999

Rep. Thomas M. Davis
415 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515-4611

Dear Representative Davis,

I have been informed that Representative W. J. *Billy¶ Tauzin is attempting to block the FCC‡s Notice of Proposed Rule Making (Mass Media Docket No. 99-25) that would allow low power FM radio broadcast stations for neighborhood service. Mr. Tauzin has stated that he will use his committee to block any funding for the FCC consideration of this NPRM.

As one of the original petitioners for this new broadcast service, I am strongly opposed to Mr. Tauzin‡s action. Our nation is built on the premise that citizens can make constructive proposals and have them seriously considered by the Federal Government. Mr. Tauzin‡s action would sabotage this basic premise of American government because it would block the FCC from considering the thousands of submitted comments from citizens requesting this new radio service.

Please privately ask Mr. Tauzin to avoid any actions against the FCC.

Thank you for your attention and your help.

Sincerely yours,

Nickolaus E. Leggett
One of the Petitioners to the FCC in RM 9208

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 168.191.218.218
Remote IP address: 168.191.218.218

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From: John R benjmain <garfield@penn.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Fri, Sep 10, 1999 1:05 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

John R benjmain (garfield@penn.com) writes:

September 10, 1999

Po Box 28
Vowinckel Pa
16260-0028

Chairman William E. Kennard

Commissioner Harold Furchtgott-Roth

Commissioner Susan Ness

Commissioner Michael K. Powell

Commissioner Gloria Tristani

RE: FCC DOCKET MM 99-25

Dear Chairman Kennard and Commissioners Furchtgott-Roth, Ness, Powell and Tristani:

As all of you know, Representative W.J. "Billy" Tauzin (R-LA) has threatened to freeze federal funding for a Low Power Radio Service if such a Service is established by the Commission in Docket MM 99-25.

I promise each of you this: IF you establish a viable, meaningful Low Power Radio Service, and face a Congressional counterattack, you will not stand alone.

Here is my pledge to you as a Low Power Radio supporter:

I personally pledge to become involved in blocking any legislative efforts to overturn any Low Power Radio Service that is viable and meaningful.

I further pledge that, IF it should become necessary, I will personally work for the defeat of those legislators who play key roles in attacking Low Power Radio.

I am part of the same wave of human energy that has, reportedly, set a record in MM 99-25

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for the highest rate of public participation in Commission history.

Except in Michigan, where control of the State Legislature may shift next year in response to lockstep Republican resistance on Low Power Radio, all of this human energy has been directed almost entirely toward persuading the FCC to establish a Low Power Radio Service. We have avoided electoral politics.

However, the same human energy can also be turned toward defending the FCC in Congress and, if necessary, overturning targeted incumbents. I pledge my willingness to join in that battle -- IF Congressional legislators force it upon us.

Sincerely,

John R Benjamin

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 208.29.101.4
Remote IP address: 208.29.101.4

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED 99-25

From: Chuck Crouse <wlmifm@penn.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Wed, Sep 15, 1999 6:31 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Chuck Crouse (wlmifm@penn.com) writes:

Thank you for taking time to meet with the Pennsylvania Association of Broadcasters group on Monday (9/13). As one member of that group, I value the openness of the exchange on LPFM. I was particularly encouraged by your response to my recollection that ten-watt non-commercial FM stations, in the 88 - 92 mHz portion of the FM band, once achieved some of the purposes enumerated in the NPRM. Unfortunately, (in my opinion), the Commission ceased licensing 10-watt stations in 1980. Restoring such stations, with broader ownership limits to accomodate church, community and other like entities, within the 88-92 mHz band, seems to me like a win-win proposition. I believe that the idea merits close attention.

Chuck Crouse
President/GM, WLMI (FM), Kane, PA

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 208.29.101.4
Remote IP address: 208.29.101.4

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From: Roy Clark <itsrc@blackhawke.net>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Sun, Sep 12, 1999 3:27 AM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Roy Clark (itsrc@blackhawke.net) writes:

Dear Sir,
Im glad you folks are working on lpfm radio service...but i think maybe you should consider changing the rules for these travel stations and allow people to use that as a low power radio service also...in some areas there is no room on fm for any more stations and there is usually room on am for low power radio...let me know what you think

RC

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 207.22.86.180
Remote IP address: 207.22.86.180

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From: Samuel Terrero <sterrero@earthlink.net>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Tue, Sep 21, 1999 7:44 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Samuel Terrero (sterrero@earthlink.net) writes:

Mr. W. Kennard

Thank you for give us the minority the opportunity to own radio statio LPFM, i think you are bringing a new face to the FCC, a FCC that think of everybody, I personally have alot of respect for the Fcc department, in special for all the good you had done.

Keep the good job, I think you unify the FCC more tahn ever.

I admire you and your corage to do think,

Samuel Terrero

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 206.81.145.28
Remote IP address: 206.81.145.28

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00-25

From: kim hickman <khickman@cablenet-va.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Fri, Sep 17, 1999 8:39 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

kim hickman (khickman@cablenet-va.com) writes:

WHY IS IT SO HARD FOR YOU PEOPLE IN WASINGTON.. TO COME UP WITH A SOLUTION ON THE LPFM BILL...? IT"S NOT THAT HARD TO SAY YES..... and then every one will be happy... stop procrastinating

---

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 208.209.30.109
Remote IP address: 208.209.30.109

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99-25

From: Doug Rogers <basicwiz@iglou.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Sun, Sep 19, 1999 6:48 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Doug Rogers (basicwiz@iglou.com) writes:

Dear Chairman Kennard,

I noticed with some interest that the deadline for the arguments re: LPFM had been moved again. It strikes me that you are in the midst of a fire-storm, and that you could use a kind word along about now. Allow me to give you that kind word...

Thank You. Thank you for representing the interests of small and minority businessmen in this proceeding. Thank you for attempting, in a very real way, to return control of licenses to those who reside in communities. Thank you for standing against the corporate giants who have devoured and destroyed broadcasting as I grew up knowing it.

I'm past 50. I teach broadcasting at a regional university in Kentucky. I am an FCC licensed engineer (if you remember far enough back to remember 1st Class Licenses). You actions have been in the finest tradition of all that the FCC could, and used to be.

I find it interesting that the NAB sat around hoping that digital broadcasting would go away, until LPFM came along. They have shamelessly used this issue to cloud the primary question.

Regardless of the outcome, I want you to know that you have earned my respect. You have proven yourself to be a true public servant; one who attempts to serve and protect the interests of THE PUBLIC, not big business.

God Bless You. And try to have a bteer day today.

Sincerely,

Douglas C. Rogers
Professor of Mass Communications
Eastern Kentucky University

P.S. No response is expected.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.1
Remote host: 24.5.116.124
Remote IP address: 24.5.116.124

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EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

From: <Lucastoli@aol.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 1999 8:50 PM
Subject: Low Power FM Stations

Dear Mr. Kennard,
I oppose the FCC's proposal to to authorize new low power FM stations (LPFMs).

The LPFMs are very likely to interfere with translator signals of existing FM stations, including those I am most concerned about, public radio stations. If the new LPFMs are given "primary" status they could force existing FM translators aff the air. We have waited a long time to have a translator for KRCB, public radio here in Sonoma County California, and I would be upset to have it forced off the air. Please withdraw this proposal.

Sincerely,

Walter Muelken
313 Florence Ave.
Sebastopol, CA 95472

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From: "Benjamin Burke" <benjaminburke@hotmail.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec%tao.ca.Vi...
Date: Mon, Sep 20, 1999 6:13 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

>Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,
>
>We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission
>
>for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the
>21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become
>increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media
>in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to
>public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use
>our radio airwaves.
>
>One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that
>diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not
>merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell
>them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press
>and free speech.
>
>Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide
>community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce
>and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture.
>Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting
>industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and
>mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive,
>
>local programming has become arguably the most regimented and
>centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have
>trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because
>economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm
>own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely
>competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is
>limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic
>industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the
>diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others
>who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio
>increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this
>situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible
>local service for democratic communications of interest and value to
>the entire population.
>
>Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower
>local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices,
>cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much
>needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community
>activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious
>community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a
>forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest
>
>issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in
>urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are
>currently too small to win attention from "mainstream",

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>profit-driven media.
>
>The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the
>creation of low power radio service would have wide public support.
>The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence
>of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience,
>constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced
>21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community
>radio stations supported by local government, whose operators
>broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property,
>arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.
>
>In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone,
>13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a
>license for low power broadcasting in their communities.
>In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition
>(mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit
>non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to
>communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are
>confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and
>culture is at the heart of a democratic society.
>
>To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the
>following concerns in mind:
>
>1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only.
>The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media.
>LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who
>want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make
>profit from them.
>
>2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable
>to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license
>holder; they should NOT be businesses.
>
>3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to
>250 watts in rural areas.
>
>4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to
>"secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses
>from low-power community stations just because the Commission
>subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or
>granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
>
>5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast
>pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property
>
>should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in
>applying
>for and receiving new licenses.
>
>6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local
>voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g.
>the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.
>
>7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes

>the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
>
>8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be
>
>licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart"
>for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is
>protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make
>money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.
>
>9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials
>such
>as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of
>program materials and resources among micro and community stations is
>strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds
>or syndicated tapes.
>
>10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial
>associations, and non-profit organizations.
>
>11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital
>spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of
>microradio
>broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has
>access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all
>manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States
>
>should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio
>broadcasters.
>
>12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.
>
>Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your
>willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation
>of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during
>
>the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the
>airwaves more accessible for our local communities.
>
>Signed,
>
>MEC Honorary Chair:
>Robert W. McChesney, Madison
>
>Steering Committee:
>Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
>Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
>Peter Franck, San Francisco
>Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
>Alan Korn, San Francisco
>Greg Ruggiero, New York City
>
>Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana
>Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
>Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
>Nancy Kranich--Librarian
>Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights

>George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
>Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
>Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
>Mark Crispin Miller--New York University
>Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
>David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
>Stewart Eweb -- Author
>Gary Ruskin, Director, Commercial Alert
>Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program
>Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)
>Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV
>Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
>Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights
>Education
>Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
>Ellen Braune--Publicist
>Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
>Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
>Juliet Schor--Harvard University
>Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San
>Diego
>Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
>Gloria Steinem--Ms.
>Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
>Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
>
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