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Office of Secretary

99-25

From: InternetF <libwww@csc.albany.edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K5DOM....
Date: Fri, Oct 8, 1999 5:35 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 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

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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", 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:

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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.

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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.

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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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Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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zip=
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ORIGINAL

From: Kevin Howley <khowley@lynx.dac.neu.edu>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Fri, Oct 1, 1999 4:12 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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state=MA
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=Send to FCC

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ORIGINAL

From: default <default@fas.harvard.edu>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Oct 16, 1999 7:09 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
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Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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Additional Comments=
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=Send to FCC

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OCT 20 1999
ORIGINAL
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: "Brian Green" <bri_green@hotmail.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(mpowell,sness),K...
Date: Fri, Oct 1, 1999 9:52 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MMDocket No. 99-25

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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 RightsEducation
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project CensoredEllen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories PressJuliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, SanDiego
Barbara Ehrenreich--AuthorGloria Steinem--Ms.Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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99-25

From: Davina Rhodes <davinarhodes@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("automated_activism@we-2.com")
Date: Thu, Oct 7, 1999 6:17 PM
Subject: Davina Rhodes says Legalize Micro Radio

This email was generated by a visitor to AUTOMATED ACTIVISM, located at http://www.we-2.com/popc/aa.html.

I urge you to support the legalization of micro radio.

The Telecommunications Act of 1996 has resulted in an unprecedented number of radio station mergers and buyouts, consolidating ownership into fewer and fewer hands. This bodes ill for our democracy.

Currently, there are several proposals before the Federal Communications Commission which seek to rescind the FCC's 1979 ban on the licensing of low power radio stations of under 100 watts. In addition, one of these proposals mandates that micro station owners live in the communities they serve, expressly forbidding absentee ownership. I believe that locally owned stations stand a much better chance of giving voice to community concerns, and help to give women and people of color a voice on the airwaves.

These rulemaking proposals are running into stiff opposition from the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB), the professional lobbying arm of corporate-owned broadcast conglomerates, which has been stridently opposed to micro radio.

While the NAB cites signal interference as the reason for its opposition, there is little evidence that micro station signals interfere with commercial stations. What the NAB really fears is competition for listeners from community based stations that offer more than a bland diet of commercials, weather, traffic reports and market researched play lists.

I encourage you to support the legalization and licensing of micro radio stations up to 100 watts. This is a voice which the American people sorely need.

Sincerely,
Davina Rhodes
Sarasota, FL
davinarhodes@hotmail.com

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From: Paul Andersen <pca@illume.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("automated_activism@we-2.com")
Date: Thu, Oct 14, 1999 7:55 PM
Subject: Paul Andersen says Legalize Micro Radio

This email was generated by a visitor to AUTOMATED ACTIVISM, located at http://www.we-2.com/popc/aa.html.

I urge you to support the legalization of micro radio.

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Sincerely,
Paul Andersen
The Woodlands, TX
pca@illume.com

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From: Katherine Duncan <communikate@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("automated_activism@we-2.com")
Date: Thu, Oct 14, 1999 3:56 PM
Subject: Katherine Duncan says Legalize Micro Radio

This email was generated by a visitor to AUTOMATED ACTIVISM, located at http://www.we-2.com/popc/aa.html.

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Sincerely,
Katherine Duncan
Philadelphia PA
communikate@hotmail.com

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From: Jessica Weiss <onenationnet@netzero.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("automated_activism@we-2.com")
Date: Thu, Oct 14, 1999 5:29 PM
Subject: Jessica Weiss says Legalize Micro Radio

This email was generated by a visitor to AUTOMATED ACTIVISM, located at http://www.we-2.com/popc/aa.html.

I urge you to support the legalization of micro radio.

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Sincerely,
Jessica Weiss
Kingston NY
onenationnet@netzero.net

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