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1045 Santiago Street
San Francisco, CA 94116
July 18, 1999

William Kennard, Chair
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Kennard:

We are delighted that the the Federal Communications Commission is taking action on an issue of great importance to us--developing new rules with regard to a low power FM radio service.

We are greatly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our region and in the country into fewer large corporations who have little interest in broadcasting a diversity of opinion about important issues. In fact, today, radio in the United States has moved far away from the vision of its pioneers as a force for democracy. In our opinion, the single objective of radio owned by multinational corporations is to deliver audiences to its advertisers. Our question is where in the realm of corporate radio does the development of an informed citizenry prepared to make decisions that strengthen our democratic institutions occur when individuals are no more than consumers?

We are pleased that the Commission is taking action to increase opportunities for local citizens and their communities to use our radio airwaves by considering the licensing of low power FM radio stations.

We believe that in order to fulfill the public interest and serve the needs of citizens who are currently shut out of the media, the Commission needs to develop an alternative radio system, one that goes beyond the current consumer and profit driven one which fails to meet our real citizen needs. We believe we need a system of low power FM grassroots radio stations that are local and community based and are controlled and operated by the people in the communities they serve. We strongly urge the Commission to consider the option of a completely non-commercial, locally owned and locally programmed micro radio service.

And for your information, in the past, we regularly listened to San Francisco Liberation Radio, an unlicensed, 40 watt, low power FM radio station while it was operating in our neighborhood. We considered it to be a fine example of neighborhood based non-commercial radio, giving voice to the many diverse citizens of the western part of the city of San Francisco.

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We also urge you to craft a plan for allocating spectrum space to communities which is simple, straightforward and easy for community groups, artists, unions, and people like us to use.

Again, we applaud the Commission's willingness to address the issue of a low power FM radio service. We are hopeful that the creation of low power FM radio service will soon become a reality. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible to our neighbors and our local community by providing licensing for a low power FM radio service which will help us get our neighborhood radio station back on the air!

Sincerely,

Herbert F. Mintz II

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