

ORIGINAL

MM 99-25

MM

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman, Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

RECEIVED

OCT 19 1999

JUL 26 2 16 PM '99

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

June 28, 1999

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I'm writing to show my support for the proposed rule currently under consideration by the FCC regarding Low-Power FM radio (LPFM). You are probably already aware this rule will create an entirely new class of radio designed for and run by local communities.

One result of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996 was that it permitted a single media corporation to own several AM and FM stations in a local "radio market." Now, in 1999, nearly all of Denver's radio stations are owned either by Chancellor Media (KALC, KIMN, KVOD, KXKL, KXPX) or Jacor (KBCO, KBPI, KHIH, KRFX, KTCL). Corporate ownership isn't bad per se, but in Denver's case, it has resulted in radio content so banal that, in some cases, it begs to be upstaged by the uproariousness of the disc jockeys (e.g., KBPI).

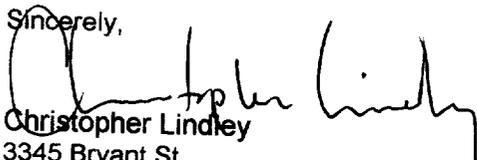
Yes, Denver has lost control over it's own radioscope: Neither Jacor nor Chancellor have their main offices in town. In effect, Denver's radio content is now dictated by entities *that do not reside in Denver!* Two recent incidents illustrate the irresponsibility of out-of-state radio ownership. The first of these was Howard Stern's recent comments about Littleton High School. This was beamed from New York City (courtesy of KRFX) to our community, which was still confounded and reeling from the tragedy. It's doubtful that Mr. Stern would have made these comments without 1,600 miles of insulation.

The second example of how corporate whim affects our community is our city's recent loss of KVOD from the FM dial. KVOD was a thirty-year-old radio *institution*. It was bought by Chancellor Media about two years ago, and the frequency (92.5 FM) recently condemned to a format change. Suddenly, "The Classical Voice of Denver" became something called "jammin' oldies." This move has not only angered the city's classical-radio listeners (of which I'm one), but further illustrates the irresponsibility of out-of-town ownership. It has been said that Chancellor felt compelled to make the move to this purported "successful format" in the Denver market before Jacor did. Amazingly, we could begin to have dueling radio formats in town. I fail to see how this serves the community. Again, the FCC needs to seriously reconsider how the FM radio-broadcast spectrum is allocated.

The FCC is considering the Low-Power FM radio model because it recognizes the need "to provide new opportunities for community-oriented radio broadcasting"<sup>1</sup>. The lower technical requirements and reduced start-up costs currently make community broadcast much more viable: In many communities, an LPFM signal of between 100 and 1000 watts could reach the entire population without the costs or technological headaches of building and managing a full-power signal. Similarly, in large metropolitan areas specific communities — both ethnic and generational — can be targeted in a low-power scenario. In the current scheme, licenses are either unavailable or the cost of entry is simply too high; in the LPFM model, local and niche programming will become much more of a reality.

Without your support of the FCC's proposed LPFM model, current broadcasting trends are sure to continue. Increasingly, individuals feel frustrated by faceless entities that do not respond to their needs. Please — radio doesn't have to be boring. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Christopher Lindley  
3345 Bryant St.  
Denver, CO 80211-3345

No. of Copies rec'd 071  
List ABCDE

<sup>1</sup> <http://www.fcc.gov/mmb/prd/lpfm/>