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Matthew Lasar, Ph.D.

171 Andover Street
San Francisco, CA
94110

415.641.1152 [tel] 415.826.6964 [fax]
www.ncal.verio.com/~lasarm/resume1
lasarm@ncal.verio.com

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Chairman William Kennard
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I write in support of your proposal to create a low power radio service. Just after the Second World War, FCC consultant Charles Siepmann hailed FM as the beginning of a new era for the ether. The promise of local, community based broadcasting, abandoned by the AM networks in the 1930s, could now be renewed. Radio's "second chance," Siepmann called FM, and he urged America to take advantage of it.

Unfortunately, four decades of conglomeration later, radio needs yet another chance. I'm sure that Charles Siepmann—and you—would agree that that chance is Low Power FM (LPFM). Citizens with something to say should be able to know they have access to a small, locally-based stations run by their neighbors. Music lovers who do not fit into mainstream market categories should be able to build their own non-profit cultures over the airwaves.

The 1-10 watt and 50-100 watt stations are crux of your proposal and should be prioritized. Although 500-1000 watt service can be included, such stations should not be allowed in urban areas, where crowded radio dials will allow for very few new stations as it is.

To fulfill its most important function—accessibility—LPFM owners should be restricted to a single station. They should live close to the broadcast area of the station. Cross-media ownership should not be allowed. Furthermore, licensing should be extended to explicitly non-profit, non-commercial low-power ventures.

Congratulations on your excellent proposal. If I can be of any assistance in supporting this worthy cause, I am happy to do what I can.

Very truly yours,


Matthew Lasar

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