



**KEVIN HOWLEY**

**Assistant Professor  
Department of  
Communication Studies**

Northeastern University  
139 Holmes Hall  
Boston, MA 02115  
617.373.4076  
Fax 617.373.8533  
E-mail: [khowley@lynx.neu.edu](mailto:khowley@lynx.neu.edu)

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**Northeastern**  
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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

May 27, 1999

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**Department of  
Communication Studies**

101 Lake Hall  
Northeastern University  
Boston, Massachusetts 02115-5000  
Phone: 617.373.5517  
Facsimile: 617.373.8533

William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing in support of the proposed rule making on Low-Powered FM (LPFM) radio stations (Docket No. 99-25). As a long-time media access advocate and an educator, I am encouraged by the prospect of the Commission's decision to reconsider its 21 year ban on microradio. Equally important, as a concerned citizen I implore the agency to formulate regulations that support non-commercial, community oriented broadcasting.

In my estimation the dearth of innovative, thought-provoking, and educational radio is a direct result of the commercialism that dominates our airwaves. I am not alone in this opinion: thousands of individuals and hundreds of local civic organizations across the country share this view. Indeed, the proliferation of microradio operations vividly demonstrates widespread dissatisfaction with the current state of radio. Moreover, these so-called pirate organizations realize the medium's potential to provide programming by, for and about local communities woefully underserved by commercial radio.

If the commission is genuinely interested in diversifying media ownership and encouraging radio that is accessible, relevant, and responsive to local populations, *non-commercial* LPFM must be encouraged. To that end, I urge the commission to adopt regulations that limits ownership to one station per license holder, encourages local license holding and stipulates that licensees be either unincorporated not-for-profit associations or non-profit organizations. In addition, LPFM technical standards should be rigorous, but not prohibitive. That is to say, equipment should meet basic technical criteria in respect to stability, filtering, modulation and control. Coupled with inexpensive licensing fees, these technical specifications significantly reduce the financial barriers to community broadcasting.

Furthermore, a general amnesty for microbroadcasters who were subject to fines and equipment seizures is an appropriate measure. Rather than encourage "chaos of the airwaves" these pioneers championed participatory radio and encouraged freedom of expression through their civil disobedience tactics. With their expertise and insights, these microbroadcasters will help ensure a smooth and orderly transition to a licensed LPFM service.

Guided by the principle that a strong democracy depends on equitable access to information and culture, LPFM could be the corner stone for a new regulatory environment that encourages greater access and participation to electronic media well into the next century. I urge you to take this first, crucial step in preserving democratic communication.

Sincerely,

Kevin Howley  
Assistant Professor

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William E. Kennard  
1919 M Street, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I am writing to you regarding the proposed rule making currently before the FCC regarding Low-Power FM Radio (LPFM). You may already be aware that the proposed rule making will create an entirely new class of radio, community radio. Design for, and run by local communities.

As a result of the Telecommunications Reform Act of 1996, ownership of existing classes of AM and FM broadcast stations has been increasingly concentrated in a limited number of hands. Along with a resultant loss in the diversity of ownership, comes a loss in diversity of programming. Localism in broadcast programming has been taken away, replaced by mass media coverage.

I believe that the proposals set forth by the FCC will broaden the spectrum by which local voices can access the public forum.

Bring about new degree of Community participation and involvement.

Offer educational, information, and entertainment alternatives.

Create new opportunities for local small businesses, and broadcast ownership.

The escalating value of existing classes of broadcast stations has increasingly resulted in outlying stations shifting their focus toward nearby metropolitan areas, often at the expense of the communities these stations were originally intended to serve. Authorization of LPFM could return local broadcast service to many of these communities.

In addition, Rep. David E. Bonior of Michigan has composed a letter to be sent to FCC Chairman William Kennard on March 10<sup>th</sup>. If you agree with the LPFM proposed full making, I urge you to sign on to this letter. I have included a copy for your inspection.

Again, I urge you to support the FCC & Chairman Kennard on this rule making, and to let the other congressional leaders know that your constituents are demanding a voice in their communities.

Thank you for your time

Sincerely,

*Jaurie Vargas*  
370 17th St Ste 5307  
Denver Co 80202  
303 446 5335

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Office of the President

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

THE UNIVERSITY OF  
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Administration Building  
PO Box 210066  
Tucson, Arizona 85721-0066  
(520) 621-5511  
FAX (520) 621-9323

March 26, 1999

AUDIO REPRODUCTION  
DIVISION

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

Dear Chairman Kennard:

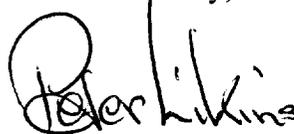
As president of The University of Arizona, I am writing to support a student request for the FCC to move ahead with its proposed rule to establish a new class of low power FM stations for non-commercial use, and particularly for the use of higher education. At the UA, more than 200 student volunteers have been providing a radio service, KAMP Radio, to campus for 11 years through various methods of transmission. Most recently, KAMP Radio has broadcast via the Internet and campus cable systems. Despite these improvements over past transmission methods, they constrain the station's ability to reach more than a fraction of the institution's 35,000 students.

FCC approval of low power FM radio licenses for educational institutions would provide positive benefits for higher education in general and the UA in particular. By providing news and information by students and for students, an FM radio station would facilitate better student communications and a more cohesive university community.

Reserving a portion of the allotment for higher education would further a number of broad university missions, including teaching and outreach. Our graduates will become the next generation of educators, broadcasters and journalists. A low power FM radio station on our campus would provide them with an invaluable opportunity to serve the community as well as create an excellent learning environment for our students facing increasingly complex and information-rich future.

I urge you to move ahead to implement this worthwhile rule.

Yours sincerely,



Peter Likins  
President

PL:cd



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Virginia Association of Broadcasters

630 Country Green Lane, Charlottesville, VA 22902  
Phone: (804) 977-3716 Fax: (804) 979-2439

March 16, 1999

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street SW, 8th Floor  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Commissioner Kennard:

On behalf of the Virginia Association of Broadcasters and its radio members, I want to voice our strong opposition to Microradio.

Our members feel that dropping in low power FM stations will create significant interference problems that will particularly affect the reception on car radios and less expensive radios so common in people's homes, especially battery-powered portable radios.

We also feel that Microradio will complicate the matter of moving from analog to digital broadcasting.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

  
Peter Easter, CAE  
Executive Director

PE/rs

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February 16, 1999

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AUDIO SERVICES  
DIVISION

Mr. Bill Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
Portalf Building  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Kennard,

I have read in the February 17th issue of Radio World publication that the FCC is open to public opinion on Low Power FM. The article states that the FCC might approve broadcast license at power levels of 1000 watts, 100 watts, and possibly 1 watt. This is certainly needed in the American free enterprise society.

The benefits of Low Power FM.

America is made up of both big and small business. There are millions of small business owners who could benefit from Low Power FM. I live on the east side of Indianapolis, where three shopping centers exist. Washington Square Mall, Cherrytree Plaza, and Eastgate consumer Mall. There are many small business operations within these malls. From leather shops, to nail polish, to clocks. These small business owners do not have the budget to buy advertising time from the giant FM power house stations, and the big stations don't want pocket change accounts.

Low Power FM could broadcast to these malls, and to the people who live and work in this section of the city. Mall news could be given, such as antique shows, chess tournaments, auto and flower shows.

The far north side of Indianapolis is another example where Low Power FM is needed. This sector is an affluent professional community. A 100 watt Low Power FM station could broadcast golf tournaments, country club events, and flying information. And even more important, program easylistening music to win their listenership. It is unfortunate, but the monotonous formats of the big power house stations are (in a sense), ignorant and limited in variety.

Small towns across American can benifit from Low Power FM. A 100 watt station can cover the entire town with local programming, and offer low cost advertising to the local business. The station and the community could become (close knit).

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To: William Kennard  
c/o FCC  
445 12th St. S.W.  
Wash., D.C. 20554

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April 3, 1999

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OCT 25 1999

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Kennard,

I live in a town of about 6,000 people on the coast of California. We are 13 miles to the next real town, which is smaller than ours. Though we are blessed with the grand Pacific Ocean on one side and rolling hills and pine trees on the other, we are rather isolated from the civilized amenity we call "radio". We are mostly limited to two or at best three stations, two of which are broadcast from 45 minutes away from our goings-on. The third station is actually located in our downtown. They have, however gotten sucked into that ugly corporate game of "radio groups", "mega-corporations" and the like. They are picking up the operation and moving it to the same town the other stations are located. A great number of people here are extremely upset at losing our communication link. We have depended on this station's location and connection to the community in a number of power outages (fairly common here) for immediate information and any number of other things a "community radio station" can provide. They will still be licensed to Cambria, California, but the connection will be elsewhere.

The point I am eventually getting to is that we have a real need for a community radio station. A micro-station would be sufficient. Having worked at the above mentioned station for the last 13 years, I know from which I speak. I am also aware of the current regulations on micro-stations. I understand the FCC is possibly considering reversing their standing on this issue. PLEASE PUT IN THE GOOD WORD FOR MICRO-STATIONS! THERE IS A REAL NEED FOR SUCH ENTITIES! RADIO IS SUCH A MESS THESE DAYS ANY WAY. PLEASE ALLOW THE "REAL FOLKS" TO HAVE A VIABLE MEANS OF COMMUNICATION. SUPPORT MICRO-RADIO STATIONS!!!!!!

Thank you so much for your time,

*Dianne E. Randazzo*  
Dianne E. Randazzo

P.O.Box 545, Cambria, CA 93428 805-927-4805

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WWJM-FM

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210 South Jackson Street  
New Lexington, Ohio 43764

Phone 740-342-1988  
Fax 740-342-1036

JUL 29 3 06 PM '99

July 25, 1999

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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OCT 25 1999

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I would like to write you in regard to the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking concerning low-power FM.

It would seem that there are several unresolved areas concerning adjacent channel interference that should be thoroughly investigated before any allocations of new low-power stations are made. I am aware that our national trade association is conducting research but that more time is required to analyze this research. I would hope that the commission would not proceed on this matter until all of the technical aspects have been reviewed.

I would also like to comment on the fact that I personally do not see the need for the low-power stations. There are ample opportunities to purchase existing broadcast stations for reasonable prices. In our area of Southeast Ohio there is a 2,500 watt AM station that has been dark for over ten years. We also had a Class IV AM sell for \$100,000 in its city of license, population 35,000. We also have two Class A FM stations that are currently for sale for less than you might pay for a rather nice house in the Washington suburbs. I certainly believe that anyone who has the desire to become a full-power broadcaster can do so with an honest effort and minimum financing. The problem in small market radio is not in obtaining a facility - it's staffing and running it.

Thank you for your consideration of my thoughts on the matter of low-power FM stations.

Sincerely,



Charles T. Edwards  
President/General Manager  
Perry County Broadcasting Company

cc: Dale Bring, OAB

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Kevin Valentino  
P.O.Box 351  
Lansdale, PA 19444

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Honorable Chairman William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th St. SW  
Washington DC 20554

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

I am writing to you regarding the Creation of Low Power FM Licenses:  
RM-9242 and RM-9208. I strongly suggest you and the Federal  
Communications Commission end the ban on community access to the airwaves.

Democracy implies that diverse interests have opportunities to express  
themselves. It is an important component of our right to a free press  
and free speech.

Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations will empower  
local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices,  
cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations will create a much  
needed forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest  
issues.

I 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. I am confident you agree that broad citizen access  
to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

Sincerely,

*Kevin Valentino*

Kevin Valentino

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OCT 25 1999

Mr. Wm. Canard  
Federal communications Commission  
1919 "M" Street  
Washington DC 20554

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RE: Consideration of legalization of Microwave non-commercial FM radio

Dear Sir and Commission:

I received this information (legitimization) of Microwave radio very late so will not elaborate so close to the deadline and I am sure you have much mail regarding this issue with details I would very likely endorse.

I WISH TO ENDORSE THE IDEA OF NON-COMMERCIAL MICROWAVE RADIO. I believe in free speech and cultural variety and life-outlooks to that extent. I've heard some micro radio in Berkeley and I think it is a good thing. I hope you will consider maybe even multiple options, an FM segment of a band. I am against heavy corporate exclusive control over what comes out over the radio.

Respectfully,



Calvin C. Steimetz  
1950 E1 Dorado Avenue  
Berkeley, CA 94704-2405

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AFL-CIO

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MM 99-25

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# SIGN DISPLAY

& ALLIED CRAFTS LOCAL UNION, NO. 510

Michael E. Hardeman  
Business Manager/Financial Secretary

Leo Michael Pointer  
Business Representative

Robert L. Owen  
Installer Representative

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MAY 32 11 30 AM '99

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To Mr. William Kennard, Chair  
Federal Communication Commission  
445 - 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Resolution of Local 510 Sign Display and Allied Trades of IBPAT in support of the legalization of micro-powered radio

WHEREAS, since 1978, the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) has refused to license FM radio stations proposing to broadcast with less than 100 watts of power, and has put other impediments in the way of the establishment of low cost, community based radio stations;

WHEREAS, that policy has effectively limited access to radio broadcasting to large corporations and wealthy individuals;

AND WHEREAS, it is frequently impossible to reach union workers and potential union members through the press or the commercial mass media;

AND WHEREAS, the poor, minorities, workers, community groups and people with alternative viewpoints have been largely denied access to the airwaves because of these FCC regulations;

AND WHEREAS, for organizing drives and for communicating with workers on the job, in their cars and in their homes, low power, community based radio operated by union locals, concerned workers, and others provide an ideal means of providing communication and information of interest to workers and their families,

AND WHEREAS most full power stations fail to adequately report news of interest to workers and members of unions, and an expansion of diversity in radio broadcasting that low power radio would make possible is likely to promote the distribution of information about the labor movement;

AND WHEREAS the lack of low power stations has robbed local communities of radio programming which addresses local concerns, substituting instead regional radio mega-stations mostly programming from thousand of miles away;

AND WHEREAS the 1996 Telecommunications Act has further and dramatically concentrated ownership of the broadcast media into a few massive corporations, squeezing out local voices;

AND WHEREAS new technology in transmitters and radio receivers is such that there is space on the radio spectrum for hundreds of new low power radio stations, each of which could be set up easily and for less than \$2,000;

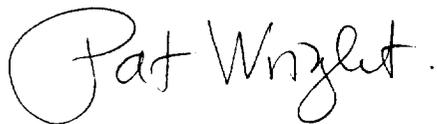
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AND WHEREAS in response to the foregoing, the FCC has issued a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPRM) which proposes the legalization of FM stations under 100 watts and which asks the public to comment on how such licensing take place;

THEREFORE, be it resolved that the President of Local 510 Sign Display of IBPAT shall submit the following as comments to the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (RM 99-25), using the FCC's procedure for submitting comments electronically at [www.fcc.gov](http://www.fcc.gov):

1. The Union Local 510 Sign Display supports licensing as many new, small FM radio stations as possible to secure the benefits of locally oriented radio for our community.
2. The new Low Power FM stations should be non-commercial to provide the maximum diversity of voices on these new stations.
3. Power levels for the new stations should not exceed 100 watts so that there can be more space on the radio dial allowing the maximum number of new stations.
5. No person or group should own more than one new station and station owners should be based in community the station would serve.
6. We also join with and support the more detailed comments to this proceeding which are being submitted by the National Lawyer's Guild's Committee on Democratic Communications.

Adopted by Local 510 May 12, 1999.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Wright". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and address.

Pat Wright, President  
Local 510  
Sign, Display and Allied Crafts, IBPAT  
2660 Newhall Street, Room 104  
San Francisco, Ca 94124-2527

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

MM 99-25

Chmn. William Kennard, Federal Communications Commission, The Portals, SW DC 20554  
Dear Chairman Kennard;

I am writing in support of your proposal to create a low power radio service. I have been concerned about changes in radio that have occurred over the last few years, particularly, the loss of localism and the abdication of many radio stations from any serious public interest responsibility.

Given that almost everyone has a radio, the potential of that medium to fulfill a democratizing and inclusive cultural mission is enormous. Radio should reflect the tremendous diversity of our culture, serving as a point of entry for newly arrived and non-English speaking Americans, providing information and discussions of important local issues and making available cultural/musical programming that is deemed not demographically appealing enough for broadcasters to carry.

Citizens with something to say should be able to know they have access to a small, locally-based station which is run by their neighbors. [The mission of my own organization, which is... would be greatly served were we able to get such access].

I feel that the 1-10 watt and 50-100 watt stations are the heart and soul of this proposal and should be prioritized. Although I believe that the 500-1000 watt service can be included, such stations should never be licensed to the exclusion of the lower wattage services.

To fulfill its most important function—accessibility—LPFM owners should be restricted to a single station and should live close to the broadcast area of the station. Cross-media ownership should not be allowed and groups with a demonstrably broad base of community support should be given licensing priority.

I [we] commend you for your foresight in proposing this service and hope that you are able to succeed in your plan to open up the airwaves to new voices.

Marc Silverstein

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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M.M.

MM 99-25

# STATE SENATOR DAVE SULLIVAN

## ORIGINAL

DISTRICT OFFICE:  
800 E. Northwest Highway  
Mount Prospect, Illinois 60056  
847/670-0280



SPRINGFIELD OFFICE:  
Illinois State Capitol  
Springfield, Illinois 62706  
217/782-3875

April 5, 1999

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing this letter in support of improving access to our airwaves for our local communities. Allowing low power FM radio stations on the air would empower local broadcasters to serve their communities with a variety of new voices and services. These stations would also provide advertising options for local businesses and increased employment opportunities in these communities. The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide support.

I am pleased that the Commission is taking action to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves. I am hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio service will soon become a reality.

Best regards,

Dave Sullivan

/dau

cc: Mr. Jerry Mitchell  
4517 Lilac Avenue  
Glenview, Illinois 60025

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MM 99-25

DR. MARTIN H. SABLE

4518 NORTH LARKIN STREET, SHOREWOOD (MILWAUKEE), WI 53211  
TELEPHONE: AREA CODE 414-964-4956  
FAX: AREA CODE 414-964-4956

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NEW FAX: 414-964-9650

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

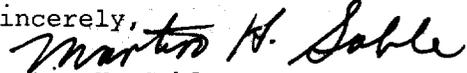
Chairman William E. Kennard  
FCC - Attention: Low-Power FM COMMENT  
445 - 12th St., SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am backing your proposal 100%, for the issuance of licenses for low-power FM radio stations nationwide. I feel there is a dire need for information on the part of many segments of American society. For example, while many people are tied to their computers and receive all types of information worldwide, there must be a vast percent of our population who cannot afford computers and who deserve to have available means of communication such as the low-power FM radio stations which you propose, for which licenses must be issued.

ALL OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE A LEVEL PLAYING FIELD: THE MORE COMMUNICATION WE ARE ABLE TO OBTAIN, I FEEL, THE BETTER OUR DEMOCRACY FUNCTIONS. IN THIS DAY AND AGE, COMMUNICATION OF INFORMATION IS A VITAL NECESSITY. I WISH YOU GODSPEED.

Sincerely,



Martin H. Sable

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April 22, 1999

Mr. William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelfth St SW  
Washington DC 20554

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I have learned that the Federal Communications Commission is considering changing its rules to allow economical low-powered FM broadcasting.

I am a community health worker and organizer and find that my ability to communicate with my constituency is severely limited by the fact that there are virtually no broadcast media with significant locally orientated public affairs programming in my area. The existing news and information about world affairs is extremely limited.

The massive consolidation of media ownership over the past few years makes it more pressing than ever that locally owned, non-commercial, community based, Low Power FM (LPFM) become a viable option for communities all over the country.

I have joined the Microradio Empowerment Coalition. As a member, I urge your Commission to legalize a low power non-commercial community based FM radio service. This is a powerful way to support genuine democracy. I support the comments submitted by the National Lawyers Guild Committee on Democratic Communications (NLG/CDC) which include:

- \* the creation of a strictly non-commercial community based service
- \* only one station per license holder
- \* primarily locally programmed stations
- \* licensing fees affordable to all communities
- \* the use of local microbroadcasters associations to resolve questions of frequency, allotment and interference
- \* amnesty and return of property for microbroadcasters who suffered government seizure of property and fines

I appreciate your serious consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,



Cara Siano

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JUN 21 4 38 PM '99

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

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570 Pennsylvania

SF, Cr 94607

June 10, 1999

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. Wm. Canard  
FCC  
1919 M St., N.W.  
Washington, D.C.

Dear Sir:

(I hope I spelled your name correctly.)

I am concerned about MICRO RADIO.

We need to have small independent radio stations. People who currently have a micro radio station should not be penalized. They should continue to operate.

Most of the media is owned by a few big corporations,

The Telecomm-  
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ventions Act gave away the People's Asset,  
air waves, to big corporations. How can we  
get it back?

In order to have a Democracy, we  
need public access to information &  
public debate. Micro Radio stations can  
help provide alternate viewpoints. We  
certainly are not going to get public  
interest news from DISNEY, TURNER  
and NBC, etc.

I am concerned about the  
future of our Democracy, are you?  
Micro Radio should be in the  
hands of individual Americans, not  
large business interests.

Sincerely yours,  
Joan Rose

DONALD A. MANZULLO  
 INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS  
 VICE CHAIRMAN—INTERNATIONAL  
 ECONOMIC POLICY AND TRADE  
 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC  
 ———  
 SMALL BUSINESS  
 CHAIRMAN—TAX, FINANCE, AND EXPORTS  
 ———  
 BANKING AND FINANCIAL SERVICES  
 CAPITAL MARKETS, SECURITIES,  
 AND GOVERNMENT SPONSORED  
 ENTERPRISES

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
**ORIGINAL**  
 Congress of the United States  
 House of Representatives  
 Washington, DC 20515-1316

16TH DISTRICT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
 409 CANNON BUILDING  
 WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
 202/225-5676

DISTRICT OFFICE  
 415 SOUTH MULLFORD ROAD  
 ROCKFORD, IL 61107  
 815/394-1231

181 N. VIRGINIA AVENUE  
 CRYSTAL LAKE, IL 60014  
 815/356-8800

October 4, 1999

The Honorable William Kennard  
 Chairman  
 Federal Communications Commission  
 445 12th Street SW  
 Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
 OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MMB  
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OCT 25 4 11 PM '99

Dear William:

I am very concerned about the results of a recent study done by the National Association of Broadcasters (NAB) regarding low-power radio (LPFM). I understand that the conclusions of the NAB research are compelling, and I hope that you have had time to examine the data that has been collected on the FCC's proposed LPFM service.

As you may know, independent consulting engineers tested 28 common radios covering the 60 markets proposed by the FCC to be eligible for the new service. The engineers found that many of the radio receivers had deteriorated, and concluded that eliminating the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> adjacent channel protection would significantly increase the interference in radio broadcasts. In fact, they predicted that 4.2 million people could be negatively impacted from the proposed 1000-watt stations, and six million radio listeners could experience increased static as a result of 100-watt levels.

I request that the FCC refrain from moving forward on its LPFM proposal until further research has been concluded and until you can assure radio broadcasters and listeners alike that this new program would not adversely affect the quality of current radio service. I would also ask that before the FCC takes any action on the low-power radio issue, it report back to Congress on its analysis of these findings and explain specifically how the FCC could implement an LPFM service without undue interference to existing radio stations.

I appreciate your consideration of this matter. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,



Donald A. Manzullo  
 Member of Congress

*MM 99-25*

**ORIGINAL**

**CHARLES T. CANADY**  
12TH DISTRICT, FLORIDA

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY  
CHAIRMAN, SUBCOMMITTEE ON  
THE CONSTITUTION

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

**EX PARTE OR LATE FILED**

1222 RAYBURN BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-0912  
(202) 225-1252

FEDERAL BUILDING  
124 SOUTH TENNESSEE AVENUE  
SUITE 125  
LAKELAND, FL 33801  
(941) 688-2651

**Congress of the United States**

**House of Representatives**

**Washington, DC 20515-0912**

September 15, 1999

*MMB*

Office of the Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 Twelve St SW TW-A325  
Washington, DC 20554

**RECEIVED**

**OCT 25 1999**

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

*l.p. 10/1*

*5305*

Dear Commissioner:

I am writing to you regarding a proposed rule under consideration by the Commission concerning low power FM (LPFM) radio stations (MM Docket 99-25). SEP 21 11:03 PM '99

I am concerned that introducing LPFM into certain markets will result in interference with existing radio stations. It is my understanding that the proposed rule does not adequately consider the effect LPFM will have on the signal quality of existing radio stations. Should the Commission move forward on this issue, I request that it exercise due diligence to ensure that the signal quality of existing FM radio stations is in no way impacted by LPFM.

Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely yours,

*Charles T. Canady*

Charles T. Canady  
Member of Congress

CTC:jp

*071*

ORIGINAL

MM 99-25

ORIGINAL

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MMB

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OCT 25 1999

WILLIAM E. KENNARD,

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I WOULD LIKE TO ASK FOR YOUR SUPPORT IN LEGALIZING LOW POWER AM RADIO STATIONS. LOCAL RADIO STATIONS CAN STAY MORE INTUNE WITH WHAT IS HAPPENING IN THEIR COMMUNITIES, AND OPENING THEM UP TO MORE PEOPLE WOULD PROVIDE A MORE CULTURALLY DIVERSE VIEW.

IF INDEPENDENT RADIO STATIONS WERE LEGALIZED MUSIC THAT MIGHT NOT BE HEARD ON A CORPORATE STATION COULD BE HEARD AT A LOCAL LEVEL, SMALL COMPANIES COULD AFFORD TO ADVERTISE TO THEIR POTENTIAL CUSTOMERS. MOST IMPORTANT THE INDIVIDUALS RUNNING THESE STATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE VERY CREATIVE AND WORK HARD TO COMPETE WITH MEGA-BUCK OPERATIONS.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR TIME, SINCERELY,  
AMY SZYCHOWSKI

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AUG 2 3 47 PM '99

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ORIGINAL

MM 99-25

uub

RECEIVED IN PART OR LATE FILED

JUL 6 3 53 PM '99

Dear William Kennard:

Hello, I'm writhing you today in regards to low power radio and the corporate domination of the Radio stations in my state .I feel it is an injustice as well as an insult for corporate America to use an art Form that can be so inspiring and freeing to make a profit. I am not just talking about the mindless Commercials I am talking about the mindless music that accompanies the commercials, not to mention the DJ's. I feel this creates a greater social issue than most may realize .I don't know how I could summarize The whole psychology or the cycle of this form of brainwashing in a timely manner, but I will try my best. First of all I Will say that the music either sounds like a commercial jingle (fake) or the theme song to a Jason movie and the community involvement are that of buying a lottery ticket. So, where would this lead One? Maybe feeling depressed and isolated. But why? Why would corporations want to do this to our Youth? Well, what better to fill the void but products, or Prozac maybe even another school shooting, and Speaking of school shootings I do live close to Columbine and my family was close to some of the people Involved in that tragedy and I do blame the incident on the fact that there are not enough outlets for People who aren't interested in the pep squad or the computer clubs or any other kind of product orientated Social group. That brings me back to community and unity, creating an "alternative" that every one can be involved in is a great way to create a common ground and participation in local music and events. Also it could help voice other perspectives on issues that are usually only talked about by people who have profitable agendas, or turned into trash by Howard Stern.

So please help us uphold the integrity of our culture and build a foundation for our community

Sincerely,

*Mike Schleipfer*

Mike Schleipfer

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OCT 25 1999

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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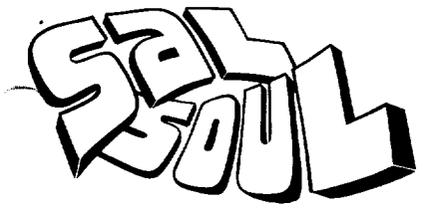
041

MMB

ORIGINAL

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED MM 99-25

CADENA



RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

March 10, 1999

Mr. William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing in opposition to the creation of a new low power FM radio service as proposed in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("NPRM"), released February 3, 1999. I am a radio broadcaster on the island of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico possesses a number of unique factors which make it ill-suited to the expansion of the FM band. Puerto Rico, therefore, should be excluded from whatever rulemaking the Commission undertakes with regard to low power FM radio.

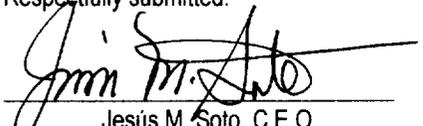
The island of Puerto Rico is a relatively small land area, less than 100 miles long and roughly 35 miles wide, that is currently saturated with AM and FM broadcast stations. Compared to the United States, Puerto Rico is made up of a mere 3,427 square miles, less than one tenth of one percent of the land area of the United States, a land area slightly larger than the licensed radio stations. By comparison, Delaware has a mere 28 radio stations for an area roughly similar in size.

Puerto Rico has a unique topography. It is a small island with a large mountain range dividing the island from east to west. As a result, a disproportionately large number of radio stations have been licensed to Puerto Rico, many of which are licensed to small communities. Currently, all communities in Puerto Rico are well served by the existing AM and FM stations.

Another factor which makes Puerto Rico ill-suited to the newly proposed class of FM stations, is the fact that the island has been designated by the FCC as a "coordination zone", designed to protect the Arecibo Astronomy Observatory near Arecibo, Puerto Rico, from radio interference.<sup>1</sup> In its *Report and Order*, the Commission stated that "the Observatory is a unique scientific tool, and... harmful interference to the Observatory's operations is a serious concern."<sup>2</sup> As a coordination zone, all broadcasters on the island are currently required to coordinate license modifications with the Observatory. Given the priority the Commission has placed on protecting the Observatory from interference, it would be inconsistent with the *Report and Order* to flood the Puerto Rican airwaves with even more radio stations.

In sum, such service would not benefit the residents of Puerto Rico, where a great number of radio stations adequately serve the public, and the broadcast spectrum is already crowded. As such, Puerto Rico would be better served without microradio broadcasting to further clutter the airwaves and it should be excluded from any rulemaking that the Commission undertakes in this matter.

Respectfully submitted:

  
Jesus M. Soto, C.E.O.

Date: 3-12-99

No. of Copies rec'd 011  
List ABCDE

<sup>1</sup>Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish a Radio Astronomy Coordination Zone in Puerto Rico, *Report and Order*, ET Docket No. 96-2, RM-8165, October 15, 1997.

<sup>2</sup>Id. at 5.

ORIGINAL  
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MM 99-225 KUB

William E. Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington DC 20554

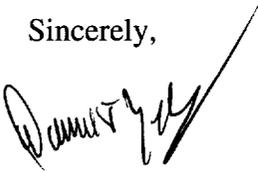
AUG 2 4 11 PM '99 EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To Whom it May Concern:

I, Dennis Seely am writing this letter in support of low-power FM radio. I feel that the radio broadcast market in Denver is completely flooded with unified non-Colorado based broadcasting corporations. I am supporting low-power FM radio in hopes of bringing localism back to Denver radio and advocating positive community change and awareness. Please consider these factors when it comes time to make a decision.

Sincerely,



Dennis Seely

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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List ABCDE

041

MMB

MM 99-25

ORIGINAL  
RECEIVED

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Attn: William E. Kennard

AUG 2 4 11 PM '99

Subject: Low-Powered FM Radio

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Kennard,

I am writing in support of Denver Community Radio and the pursuit of journalist and artistic freedom. Because of the strict FCC regulations and overabundance of corporate sponsored radio, I have found that Denver radio does not support the views and opinions of its community. I am exhausted and frustrated searching for music, news, and entertainment that does not reflect the corporate agendas. It is apparent that freedom of speech is not a value honored by the FCC. Rather, the FCC values monetary importance, big business and the control over what the public is allowed to listen to. If there is any quality in radio it is because of Low-Powered FM Radio stations or "Pirate Radio". These are currently the only radio stations that express true interest in the public's views and the diversity of it's community. Please be aware that until these FCC laws prohibiting Community funded radio are abolished, our rights and freedoms as American citizens are being suppressed.

Sincerely,

Chad Smith



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List ABCDE

ORIGINAL

mm 99-25

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William E. Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street N.W.  
Washington DC 20554

AUG 24 11 PM '99

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OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To Whom it May Concern:

This letter is written in support of low-power FM radio stations. I believe that this is a good thing to give the community that the stations would be potentially based in an opportunity to address the specific issues that pertain to them. It would give community leaders an opportunity to have their voices be heard about issues relative to their particular neighborhoods. It would also offer local businesses a low-cost alternative for advertising that they might not otherwise have using large, cooperate radio stations.

I believe that passing legislation making this idea a reality would also provide the community a greater sense of civic pride and sense of commitment to the improvement of their neighborhoods.

Please give this idea a fair chance to show its value.

Thank You,



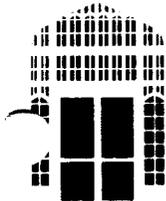
Gitte Sorbo

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ORIGINAL

UUB

MM 99-25



Oglethorpe

UNIVERSITY  
MAY 32 11 29 AM '99

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

May 24, 1999

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 St. SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing to express my support for the proposal before the FCC to permit a new category of Low Power FM radio stations. At Oglethorpe University, a small liberal arts college in Atlanta, Georgia, we currently have a station broadcasting only on the Internet. We have had experience with a carrier current system, which we found to be unwieldy. It did not provide the listener coverage or the fidelity of signal that we needed. If Low Power FM stations were permitted we would almost certainly apply for a license, probably at the 10 watt (or at the most 100 watt) level. There is a great deal of interest among students on our campus in college radio. Having a Low Power FM station would provide great educational benefits for our students and a service to the surrounding community.

I understand that the principal objection of the National Association of Broadcasters to Low Power FM is its potential to create interference. This is an understandable concern and we have no wish to interfere with the operations of large FM stations. However, the airways are a public resource, which it seems to me, ought to be managed to provide the maximum feasible public access not simply to protect the prerogatives of an industry that is becoming increasingly monopolistic. A rational implementation of Low Power FM stations would diversify programming and counteract the trend toward homogeneity in radio broadcasting. I admit that I am not knowledgeable in radio technology. I have heard the argument and consider it a valid one that, if the concept of Low Power FM is embraced, innovative engineers will have an incentive to generate solutions to possible existing problems.

Good luck in your deliberations. I hope that the FCC takes an affirmative stand on Low Power FM.

Sincerely,

Marshall R. Nason  
Associate Dean of Community Life

Copy: Michael Bracy, Executive Director, Low Power Radio Coalition

No. of Copies rec'd 0+1  
List ABCDE

ORIGINAL

MM 99-25

RE  
Jun 10 17:46 Blue Rd. # 711  
San Diego, CA 92107  
OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN, 1999

ORIGINAL

OFFICE OF

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

William Kennard  
FCC Chairman  
1919 N St. Rm 814 8th floor  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Subject: Microstations

Dear Mr. Kennard,

We support your proposal to license smaller radio stations, including low power outlets.

We desperately need community voices, an alternative to large companies that have monopolized the marketplace with their mind numbing commercials and same sound alike programming.

We urge you to support and adopt legislation that will legalize micro radio and guarantee rights for noncommercial broadcasters.

Thank you for your attention to our concerns.

Sincerely,

Cathy O'Leary and John Garry

No. of Copies  
List ABCDE

CH1

MM 99-25

#9907057

MMB

ORIGINAL  
RECEIVED



National Association for Visually Handicapped

22 West 21st Street • New York, New York 10011 • Telephone (212) 889-3141  
Fax (212) 727-2931 • E-mail: staff@navh.org • Website: http://www.navh.org

JUN 31 11 30 AM '99

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Lorraine H. Marchi  
FOUNDER/CEO

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

June 29, 1999

**William Kennard, Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20554**

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Kennard:

**Re MM Docket 99-25**

**National Association for Visually Handicapped is the only voluntary national health agency devoted solely to serving the "Hard of Seeing"--those who are not totally blind, but whose limited vision cannot be enhanced by either corrective lenses or currently available medical procedures.**

***In their behalf, we urge you to drop the LPFM proposal and find other ways to help visually impaired people!***

**Thank you for your consideration. We look forward to your positive response.**

Sincerely,

Lorraine H. Marchi  
Founder/CEO

LHM:ec  
cc: Dr. M. Pfanstiehl-MWE

No. of Copies rec'd 041  
List ABCDE

To: Mr. William Kennard, Chairman, Federal Communications Commission.  
Subject: Microstations

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

MM 99-25

Dear Mr. Kennard:

I represent a group that would be very interested in your microstation proposal, and would consider applying for a license. I would like to make an official comment when the time comes. I understand this will come in June sometime.

Instead of opposing this, I would think the NAB should embrace it. These low wattage stations will not take listeners, or revenue of any measure away from them but would "level the playing field". When I read recently that 4 companies owned over 1000 stations, I was appalled. The Journal company here locally announced one day they had obtained 8 stations in Boise, Idaho. This has to be nearly every one!! I'm sorry but even though there still remains, I'm sure, some alternatives to this, that's a monopoly in any sense of the word!! When I read your proposal I couldn't help but think of the attack on PBS. I'm sorry but this would help remedy some of that allowing certain groups to start their own outlets.

/ lines 1-21 of 21 /

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

MAY 23 2 29 PM '99

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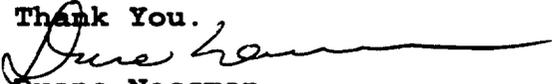
071

To: Mr. William Kennard  
Subject: continued

What happened, or is going to happen to the theory that the airways are public,  
an only a few companies own them all.

Could you please keep me informed of when and how I can make an official commen  
t on your proposal.

Thank You.

  
Duane Nessman

6911 W. Orchard St. Apt.101  
West Allis, WI 53214

(414) 319-6135 day.  
(414) 475-1521 night.  
E-mail dwn@execpc.com

/ lines 1-21 of 21 /

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ORIGINAL

MM 99-25

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

March 10, 1999

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Mr. William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12th Street, SW  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing in opposition to the creation of a new low power FM radio service as proposed in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("NPRM"), released February 3, 1999. I am a radio broadcaster on the island of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico possesses a number of unique factors which make it ill-suited to the expansion of the FM band. Puerto Rico, therefore, should be excluded from whatever rulemaking the Commission undertakes with regard to low power FM radio.

The island of Puerto Rico is a relatively small land area, less than 100 miles long and roughly 35 miles wide, that is currently saturated with AM and FM broadcast stations. Compared to the United States, Puerto Rico is made up of a mere 3,427 square miles, less than one tenth of one percent of the land area of the United States, a land area slightly larger than the licensed radio stations. By comparison, Delaware has a mere 28 radio stations for an area roughly similar in size.

Puerto Rico has a unique topography. It is a small island with a large mountain range dividing the island from east to west. As a result, a disproportionately large number of radio stations have been licensed to Puerto Rico, many of which are licensed to small communities. Currently, all communities in Puerto Rico are well served by the existing AM and FM stations.

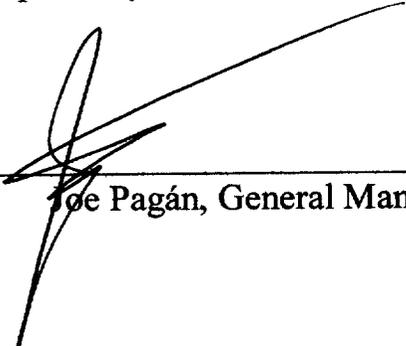
No. of Copies rec'd 0+1  
List ABCDE

Mr. William E. Kennard  
March 10, 1999  
Page 2

Another factor which makes Puerto Rico ill-suited to the newly proposed class of FM stations, is the fact that the island has been designated by the FCC as a "coordination zone", designed to protect the Arecibo Astronomy Observatory near Arecibo, Puerto Rico, from radio interference.<sup>1</sup> In its *Report and Order*, the Commission stated that "the Observatory is a unique scientific tool, and . . . harmful interference to the Observatory's operations is a serious concern."<sup>2</sup> As a coordination zone, all broadcasters on the island are currently required to coordinate license modifications with the Observatory. Given the priority the Commission has placed on protecting the Observatory from interference, it would be inconsistent with the *Report and Order* to flood the Puerto Rican airwaves with even more radio stations.

In sum, such service would not benefit the residents of Puerto Rico, where a great number of radio stations adequately serve the public, and the broadcast spectrum is already crowded. As such, Puerto Rico would be better served without microradio broadcasting to further clutter the airwaves and it should be excluded from any rulemaking that the Commission undertakes in this matter.

Respectfully submitted:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Joe Pagán, General Manager

Date: 3/2/99

---

<sup>1</sup>*Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish a Radio Astronomy Coordination Zone in Puerto Rico, Report and Order, ET Docket No. 96-2, RM-8165, October 15, 1997.*

<sup>2</sup>*Id.* at 5.

MMLJ

MM 99-25

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12646 Glenwood Street  
Overland Park, Kansas

ORIGINAL

66209-2577

March 28, 1999

APR 1 5

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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APR 21 10 20 AM '99  
AUDIO SERVICES  
DIVISION

FCC Chairman William Kennard  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street  
Washington, D.C. 20554

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OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

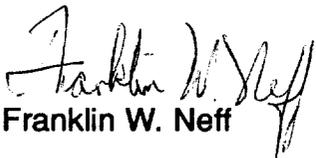
Dear Commissioner Kennard,

I urge you to do all you can to keep and expand low-power broadcasting. Commercial uses are beyond what is needed by about 1,000%, and the need for more citizens to have access to the airwaves to tell others their views is growing constantly. A low-power station in Lawrence, Kansas, not far from here, has been harassed and chased.

The big networks and cables are of the same views on too many things. We need options. The low-power medium helps.

Please work at persuading your colleagues to approve and encourage a lot of low-power broadcasting.

Sincerely,

  
Franklin W. Neff

No. of Copies rec'd 0-1  
List ABCDE

ORIGINAL  
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED  
RECEIVED  
99-25

OCT 25 1999



FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, DC  
2453 RAYBURN H.O.B.  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515  
(202) 225-3772  
FAX: (202) 225-1314  
  
PINE BLUFF  
100 EAST 8TH AVENUE  
SUITE 2521  
PINE BLUFF, AR 71601  
(870) 536-3376  
(800) 223-2220  
FAX: (870) 536-4054  
  
HOT SPRINGS  
100 RIVERSIDE  
SUITE 201  
HOT SPRINGS, AR 71901  
(501) 623-5800  
(800) 541-6388  
FAX: (501) 623-5363

JAY DICKEY  
4TH DISTRICT, ARKANSAS

COMMITTEE  
APPROPRIATIONS

SUBCOMMITTEES  
AGRICULTURE

LABOR, HHS, ED  
DEFENSE

E-MAIL: jay.dickey@house.gov  
www.house.gov/jaydickey

# Congress of the United States

## House of Representatives

July 1, 1999

MMB  
PV/WEK  
LP Radio  
#5427  
100  
66 11/1999

The Honorable William Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M Street, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

On behalf of the people of the state of Arkansas, I would like to express my concerns with the proposed rules regarding the creation of low power FM radio service. Thank you for taking the time to consider my correspondence.

It is my understanding that the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) is considering abandoning the current requirement for specified distance separations between stations on the same channel and three pairs of adjacent channels. The requirement in place was established so that listeners would not experience interference and elimination or reduction of these standards would certainly result in increased interference to existing signals.

As you may know, Arkansas has a robust radio industry, with more than 230 stations currently providing service over a mainly rural region. The proposed rules could have a staggering effect on the ability of my constituents to receive FM radio without significant interference.

At this point, I must voice my opposition to the proposed rule and request that it be redrafted to reflect the concerns of the people of Arkansas.

Sincerely yours,

Jay Dickey

al

0+1

**PRIMEDIA  
BROADCAST GROUP**

mm 99-25

MUB

AUG 5 7 36 PM '99

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

ORIGINAL

OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN

RECEIVED

OCT 25 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

August 2, 1999

The Honorable William E. Kennard  
Chairman  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, S.W.  
Room 8-B210  
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Kennard:

I am writing in opposition to the creation of a new low power FM radio service as proposed in the Commission's Notice of Proposed Rule Making ("NPRM"), released February 3, 1999. I am a radio broadcaster on the island of Puerto Rico. Puerto Rico possesses a number of unique factors which make it ill-suited to the expansion of the FM band. Puerto Rico, therefore, should be excluded from whatever rulemaking the Commission undertakes with regard to low power FM radio.

The island of Puerto Rico is a relatively small land area, less than 100 miles long and roughly 35 miles wide, that is currently saturated with AM and FM broadcast stations. Compared to the United States, Puerto Rico is made up of a mere 3,427 square miles, less than one tenth of one percent of the land area of the United States, a land area slightly larger than the State of Delaware. Nonetheless, despite its relatively small size, Puerto Rico has roughly 120 licensed radio stations. By comparison, Delaware has a mere 28 radio stations for an area roughly similar in size.

Puerto Rico has a unique topography. It is a small island with a large mountain range dividing the island from east to west. As a result, a disproportionately large number of radio stations have been licensed in Puerto Rico, many of which are licensed to small communities. Currently, all communities in Puerto Rico are well served by the existing AM and FM stations.

Another factor which makes Puerto Rico ill-suited to the newly proposed class of FM stations is the fact that the island has been designated by the FCC as a "coordination zone," designated to protect the Arecibo Radio Astronomy Observatory near Arecibo, Puerto Rico from radio interference<sup>1</sup>. In its *Report and Order*, The Commission stated that "the Observatory is a unique scientific tool, and ... harmful interference to the Observatory's operations is a serious concern."<sup>2</sup> As a coordination zone, all broadcasters on the island are currently required to coordinate license modifications with the Observatory. Thus, to add the new class of stations to the island would not only add to the congestion of the radio frequencies, but also increase the likelihood of interference to the Observatory. Given the priority the Commission has placed on protecting the Observatory from interference, it would be inconsistent with the *Report and Order* to flood the Puerto Rican airwaves with even more radio stations.

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In sum, such service would not benefit the residents of Puerto Rico, where a great number of radio stations adequately serve the public, and the broadcast spectrum is already crowded. As such, Puerto Rico would be better served without microradio broadcasting to further clutter the airwaves and it should be excluded from any rulemaking that the Commission undertakes in this matter.

Respectfully submitted:

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hilary A. Hattler".

Hilary A. Hattler  
President and General Manager

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<sup>1</sup> *Amendment of the Commission's Rules to Establish a Radio Astronomy Coordination Zone in Puerto Rico, Report and Order*, ET Docket No. 96-2, RM-8165, October 15, 1997.

<sup>2</sup> *Id.* at 5.