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February 8, 1999

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

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dear Chairman Kennard,

The purpose of this letter is to express my concerns about something I consider to be the biggest issue facing our industry... low power radio. The term is definitely a misnomer because this commitment to low power carries the power to destroy the ability to serve our communities that we now enjoy. This has been proposed as a way to get more minorities into broadcast ownerships. As one of those minorities I would like to address that argument.

First, as a woman in this industry, I have worked hard to enjoy the same opportunities provided my male counterparts. I've never felt anyone owed me anything more than a chance and I have never been disappointed. To offer these "block party" licenses as a way of leveling the playing field is not only dangerous to the entire industry, but an insult. While a few major players combine stations to create radio empires, the minority buyer is offered a license that will carry more nuisance potential than growth potential. What's more, the likelihood of creating a license caste system that alienates these new owners from the rest of the broadcast community is immense.

Creating minority opportunities is something that should be at the top of the list of every industry. Damaging any industry to accomplish a fraction of that duty is wrong. As a minority broadcaster who has proudly worked in this field for over twenty years I ask that you look for solutions that maintain the integrity of our industry and that of the people whom you seek to help.

Most sincerely,

Diana L. Coon
General Manager
WMAN/WYHT/WSWR

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