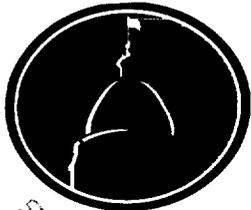


LP

MM 99-25



# Capital Area Career Center Sangamon Area Vocational Education Region

2201 Toronto Road • Springfield, Illinois 62707-8645  
Phone (217) 529-5431 • Fax (217) 529-7861  
WWW.CAVC.ORG

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May 16, 1999

Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20036

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Dear Sir or Ms.,

Please accept this letter as comment in opposition to the pending Low Power FM Radio License (LPFM) as proposed.

We already experience interference to our non-commercial educational station due to the massive number of same and adjacent channel licenses granted in and around central Illinois in recent years. Our schools, 25 high schools and 17 school districts, have invested thousands of dollars each year to operate this legally licensed station. This represents a significant investment by all of our area's taxpayers.

And now it appears the Commission will create more congestion and reduce accountability, with serious negative implications for service such as ours.

We already have a noted pirate radio operator in Springfield, broadcasting what many characterize as slanderous and obscene material. He and his supporters have done so with no effective enforcement from the FCC for 10 years. They operate around 107 FM. When will the FCC take them off the air? They are also noted nationally as prime movers in the LPFM movement. What message will granting him or his supporters a station send to my students? How can I teach my students responsibility and the rules if you won't enforce existing ones?

Nevertheless, there is a way to grant LPFM licenses to responsible local groups and not interfere with legitimate existing stations. Create a few new channels above or below the existing FM band and reserve them for LPFM stations. And, strictly limit coverage area through restricted power and antenna height. You might also re-establish the 3rd Class Operator Permit for all station operators.

Ironically, the Internet and audio streaming will probably make LPFM unnecessary for local groups to reach the public before the FCC could ever establish it anyway. The federal government should move on the Internet front to insure every citizen's access to the world wide web before adding more suppliers to an already saturated FM broadcast band.

Please feel free to call upon me for further comment. As a broadcaster and broadcast educator for 32 years, I would be eager to discuss these complicated issues with you at any time. Thank you for your consideration of our concerns.

Sincerely,

Jim Grimes,  
General Manager and Instructor  
WQNA-FM  
Capital Area Career Center

cc: Senator Dick Durbin  
Senator Peter Fitzgerald  
Representative Ray LaHood  
Representative John Shimkus

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