

If its not broke, don't fix it!

In most issues that I come upon, it is easy to make a clear cut decision in favor of or opposing that certain issue. The issue of the creation of Low Power FM is not such an easy one to decide on, because there are such a wide variety of both positives and negatives that LPFM entails. You could not ask for a less “black or white” issue, or one that carries with it such controversy. Though after reviewing several previously submitted comments to the FCC, I feel that LPFM would be much more harmful to the industry than beneficial.

Many people are scared of change, they find comfort in consistency, and reject new ideas, even if change will make things better. This is not the case concerning Low Power FM. The FM band is set up the way it is for a reason, because it works. It is a tried and true method. The four channel separation rule has been successful in the past and research projects done show that channels that are closer (first, second, and third removed channels) have severe signal separation problems. So essentially, we can have many stations that work well, or thousands and thousands that are mediocre and encounter endless interference problems.

Another issue I found while reviewing comments, was one of serious moral obligations. A commentor brought up the point that many visually disabled people rely on radio as not only a form of entertainment, but more importantly, as a way of life. With the medium of radio disturbed, it could

effect their whole reality. I feel that creating LPFM would be a step in the wrong direction, especially if you consider the visually disabled community.

Furthermore, they are not the only ones who rely on radio. Many communities rely on radio as a form of first alert notification in potentially harmful or tragic situations. I for one would be terribly upset if an announcement of warning was blocked by or interfered with by a Low Power FM station. Radio is too vital an asset to be toyed with.

The future is also something to take into consideration. LPFM may have a negative effect on steadily progressing technology. If we institute a new low power radio service now, it may limit the potential of Digital radio.

In conclusion, if I were on the Federal Communications Commission board, and I had to vote today on the creation of LPFM, I would vote against it. Common sense should overrule politics in this case. As Lew Warren of the San Bernardino Community College District stated in his comment to the FCC, "This rule making proposal, though laudable, has more of the features of a wish than a reality". I must agree with him.