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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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Box 208 • 200 3rd Ave. West, Durand, Wisc 54736 • 715-672-8889

The Honorable William Kennard
Chairman F.C.C.
445 12th Street SW
Washington DC 20554

April 1 1999

Dear Mr Chairman,

I am writing to voice my objection to the notice of proposed rule making, which would create a new Low Power Class of FM stations.

I would hope you have heard the old saying, " If it ain't broke, Don't fix it". For the most part, communities that feel they are not being served by the present classes of the FM spectrum, are being denied service by terrain problems, and FM's "line of sight" transmission.

In Western Wisconsin, some of the river towns, tucked in the vallies behind the hills and bluffs, have a hard time getting reception from the current stations. This "shadowing" effect is an exception, rather than a rule.

If the current interference standards are relaxed to allow Low Power in the spectrum, the additional interference will diminish the service the current stations provide, which would neccessitate a new LOWER POWER class, which further diminishes the service and creates the need for Still Lower Power FMes.

Just because 13,000 applicants want to own radio stations, is not a good enough reason to accompodate their wishes. If 13,000 current broadcasters wanted to serve on the Communications Commission, would Congress authorize an additional 13,000 commissioners? Of if 13,000 people wanted to be Senators or Congressmen, would congress create 13,000 new legislative districts? I think not.

Then when you consider the additional staff your office would need to monitor, and police 13,000 additional stations, I think you will create more problems than you solve.

Perhaps if the rules regarding translator systems was relaxed to help communities with reception or service problems from very uneven terrain, you would solve more problems and maintain the integrity of the current spectrum.

Thank you for considering my views,

Respecfully
Gene Kirchner
Gene Kirchner General Manager
WRDN AM and FM Durand Wi.

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