

From: <ARTCRIBBS@aol.com>
To: K5DOM.K5PO2(WKENNARD)
Date: Sun, Sep 26, 1999 4:05 PM
Subject: Re: Appreciation and word of concern

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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

ORIGINAL


Thanks, Bill, for your reply and information regarding low power radio. I am very familiar with your efforts and stand in support of what you are doing. I look forward to receiving additional information from your office. You may know that I sponsored a group of Latino ministers from Cleveland on a trip to DC late last year to give them access to media attorneys regarding your proposal for low power radio. Also, you should have received a letter from me via the Office of Communication and Everett Parker for your files. All in all, what you are doing is very important to so many who are currently without voice over the airwaves.

Low power may be something of a challenge in San Diego because of the topography. We have hills and valleys throughout the area. The African American community is so spreadout throughout Greater San Diego, there is not a real geographic concentration. But, whatever we can do to help alleviate the near total absence of our presence, then every effort is worthwhile.

Again, thank you and God bless you. I do hope you will have an opportunity to come to San Diego and allow me the privilege of introducing you to this community and our congregation.

Art Cribbs

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ORIGINAL

From: Salvatore DeBenedetto <tootie1@erols.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Sun, Sep 26, 1999 5:26 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

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Salvatore DeBenedetto (tootie1@erols.com) writes:

Chairman Kennard dear sir my life ambition was to owne a low powered radio station even a one watt or 2 would be ok

so I could play CDs & records from unknow artist because thay can't get them played on a major radio station and also local

ball games and what's happening in my home town sort of a community calender if you get meaning

I am 73 years old and a lot of life left in me I am a wwll vet I've waited for this for a long time I belive if any one can do this you can.

with your help it could happen. This is not a money making venture for me so please sir make it happen for

the meny thousands of small people like me that want to help people not only to make money, money is not every thing. Also I don't belive the major

Corp. should not owen all the air space leave room for small people like me and others.

I would like to take this time to say you are the beakin for the commision keep up the good work ,thank you in

advance my name is tootie nick name thank you again.

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 209.150.42.216
Remote IP address: 209.150.42.216

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ORIGINAL

From: "Anderson (From Work)" <anderson@ite.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Fri, Sep 24, 1999 2:13 AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
 Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
 Commissioner Michael Powell
 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
 Federal Communications Commission
 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
 cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

MM Docket No. 99-25
 Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.

In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we 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, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.
2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.
3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.
4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.
5. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g.

the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

6. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

7. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

8. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

9. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

10. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director, Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University
Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
Stuart Ewen -- Author
Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program

Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)
Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV
Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education
David C. Korten--Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,
publishers of YES Magazine
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Efia Nwangaza--Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Movement for
Self Determination
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=As an educator, it's clear to me what a valuable tool LPFM radio will be to my students in teaching them communication skills which are essential in our society today.

LPFM will provide an opportunity for our children to have a voice in their own community building thier self confidence and self esteem.

LPFM needs to become a reality for our children!

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city=Guam

state=

zip=96930

=Send to FCC