

As the mayor of a small town in the rural West, I am concerned that we have affordable opportunities for radio programming that reflects the diversity of cultures and issues in our region. Radio is an important source of news and commentary in our area. We are not served by the larger urban broadcasters and the local station we have holds a radical monopoly on the airwaves while only serving the commercial and political interest of its owners. There is much talent and interest locally to provide more service oriented radio. In the interest of rural democracy, I favor low cost FM licences, particularly in the 1000 watt range. ps. Our local radio station owner tells me that he has learned from his sources in the radio industry that the FCC will permit the new licences, but that he will have the first opportunity to buy up the licences in this area and remove them from service. It seems to me that this defeats the purpose of community-oriented radio. I hope that the democratization of air-waves is not coopted by commercial interests.