

MM 99-25

FCC Local State Government Advisory Committee
Advisory Recommendation No. 18

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NOV 15 1999

Low Power FM Radio

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

At its July 23, 1999 meeting, the Local and State Government Advisory Committee to the Federal Communications Commission considered the pros and cons of creation of a Low Power FM service.

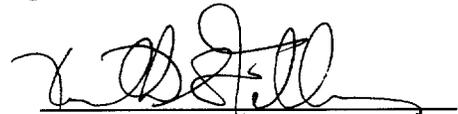
Throughout the last two decades, local governments have turned to every means possible to facilitate communication with citizens, including Public, Education and Government (PEG) cable television channels and the Internet. While these efforts have resulted in higher levels of citizen participation in local government, they have also been limited by the penetration levels of cable television and the Internet.

Radio is the closest thing to a universal communications medium in this country, with over 95% of American adults listening to FM every week. Radio is also widely underutilized as a communications tool for government entities. Low Power FM is particularly attractive because of the low cost of running a LPFM station and the ability for truly local discourse.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

1. The FCC has an obligation to manage FM spectrum in the public's interest. Introduction of a Low Power FM service clearly meets that obligation as long as the LPFM signals do not harm consumers' ability to listen to existing stations.
2. Local jurisdictions should retain land use authority over the siting of Low Power FM transmitters.

Adopted by the LSGAC on this 10th day of September, 1999.



Kenneth S. Fellman
Chairman

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