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From: "Bill Spry" <raduga@raduga.net>
To: "Gloria Tristani" <GTRISTAN@fcc.gov>
Date: 1/7/00 11:59AM
Subject: LPFM

Dear Commissioners,

I read recently of a possible vote on Docket 99-25 on January 20, 2000. What a great way to start the new year and mellinium.

I want to encourage you to vote FOR this new, important and history making proposal. There are open frequencies all over the US where very small stations would fit without causing any interference to existing stations. I remind you that Translators are nothing more than LPFM stations that have proven time and time again that if they are carefully allocated, no interference will result. It simply makes much more sense to allow origination of programming to a LPFM service rather than to waste an existing frequency with another translator allocation broadcasting an out of town origination.

Please know that there are hundreds of people working behind the scenes supporting 99-25 despite the NAB opposition. It is very obvious their concerns are only motivated by money or should I say, the reduction of it in their gold lined pockets, should this service be authorized.

Community service goes far beyond the money issues. There are those who really care about their communities. Who want to serve the people who live there. Who want to really make a difference. I am one of those people.

I have participated by helping create and file one of the original petitions for a LPFM service (Community Radio Coalition). I have contacted my congressmen, I have talked with many people around the country. I have done as much as I can do. Now it is in your hands.

Please vote FOR 99-25. I specifically ask you to consider:

Removal of 3rd ad. restrictions
Lightening of 2nd ad. restrictions
At least as much power at translators are allowed (250 watts)
A commercial and non-commercial service
One station per person
Licensee must reside in the area of license
Licensee must not hold any other AM or FM licenses

Gratefully,

William J. Spry

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From: "Niva Kramek" <niva_k@hotmail.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","gwb@mail.georgewbush.com","campaign@billbradley.com","Vice.President@whitehouse.gov", . . .
Date: 1/8/00 7:17AM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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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,
Bill Bradley, and George W Bush
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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

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local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

6. 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.

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

8. 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.

9. 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.

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

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. 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

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana
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
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University
Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio
David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
Stewart Eweb -- Author
Gary Ruskin, Director, Commercial Alert
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
Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored
Ellen Braune--Publicist
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Niva G. Kramek
22 Lansdowne Road, East Brunswick, NJ 08816

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From: <PunkRo7903@aol.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS),K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: 1/7/00 4:34PM
Subject: LPFM (MM Docket No. 99-25)

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Commissioners,

I find myself contacting you once again on an issue I feel strongly about, Low Power FM Radio. I whole heartedly applaud you on your support thus far for LPFM (MM Docket No. 99-25) and urge to keep up the fight to insure its succesful passage. As a telecommunication major at the University of FL in Gainesville and someone dedicated to positive change through a career in radio Im deeply concerned about its future. I believe the Telecommunications Act of 97 as had a negative affect on the industry and its concern for the public interest. One can almost count on a single hand the number of stations that even have a remotely unique style or make an attempt at true localism. With the rapid expansion of already humungous communications companys gobbling up there smaller opponents and an increase in computer automated stations I belive LPFM is the only way to force corporate radio to reassess its purpose (to serve the PUBLIC not the advertisers) and simultaneously give the common man(one that doesnt have $100,000 for an FCC licenese) a voice on the their airwaves.

Im especially concerned at the moment about the "Radio Broadcasting Preservation Act of 1999" otherwise known as HR 3439 which could wipe away all your efforts to this point. A Representative for my area, Cliff Stearns is sponsoring this, which also concerns me. I plan to contact him also on the issue.

Once again, I thank you for your continued support for Low Power Radio and will keep track of yours and others action on the issue. Please, please, please do not give in to lobbying from the NAB or any other organizations. They are just looking out for their wallets and know have a clue - and really dont care - what the people want.

Sincerely,
Patrick Lavery
Gainesville,

FL

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