SUNSHINE PERIOD

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Commissioner Susan Ness,
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals
455 Twelfth Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Ms. Ness,

I would like to express my support for the implementation of Low Power FM Broadcasting. I understand it will come to vote on January 20. While I'm happy that it looks as if some form of LPFM may actually come to pass, I have to concede that what is currently proposed is too little to be of significant value to the American public.

Firstly, while I have no problem with the concept of non-commercial broadcasting for LPFM, I hope that the assignment of frequencies will not be limited to the current "educational" band. Further, please give consideration to increased power levels in rural areas. 100 watts at 30 meters HAAT is probably sufficient for most urban areas. In fact, 100 watts might even be over-kill in many situations, but in rural areas, I believe that 250 watts at 40 meters would provide a more reasonable compromise. It may be impossible for many LPFM operators to be viable with only a 3.5 mile radius "grade A" signal contour, unless their target audience is of the bovine persuasion.

Even more importantly, I think you **must** allow second adjacent channel placement for enough openings to become available in order to make the service have any significant value. Short spacing is done routinely in major markets by established broadcasters with seemingly little ill-effect. For instance, in the Dallas Ft. Worth area, WRR occupies 101.1 with 100,000 watts from Cedar Hill. Now, KLTY is signing on at 100.7 from Highland Village. While these two transmitter sites are about 60 miles apart, the intended coverage area is the space located between the two locations, namely the affluent North Dallas, and Mid-Cities area of the DFW Metroplex. It's interesting that interference does not seem to be an issue in this circumstance, even though these same people are concerned about possible interference from a 100 watt transmitter. You and I know better. If anyone is going to lose in a second adjacent situation, it's the flea powered station, not the 100 kW broadcaster on a 1500 foot tower.

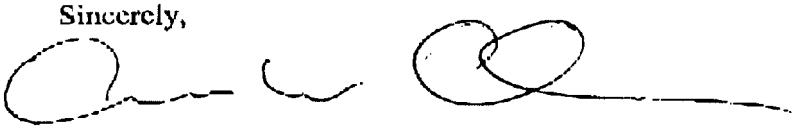
Assuming that some sort of LPFM is established, the Commission should not diminish these new stations to secondary status. It would be a tragedy to work so hard on LPFM to have the license taken away because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station, or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

I am also concerned that there seems to be no consideration for 10 watt "microbroadcasting" in the proposal. At this power level, thousands of stations could share just a few frequencies. It's worked in other countries, and it can work here. It's establishment would solve many of the problems media consolidation has brought us, giving a real diversity in the voices you could hear on the air. There is also a great need for some sort of low power "special event" broadcasting as a means to connect people at large gatherings such as concerts, sporting events, festivals, religious gatherings, political rallies, and a host of other uses. I strongly encourage the Commission to set forth the establishment of a non-licensed very low power FM service for these and other purposes. A one watt limit with the antenna only high enough to clear immediate obstacles should be fairly workable. I believe Canada has such a scheme. It seems to work for them.

While you are considering the fate of the FM band, a good place to start cleaning up would be the elimination of satellite delivered translator feeds. For some reason, they seem to be unopposed, but they are indeed Low Power FM. The problem as I see it is they are not a part of the community they broadcast to. For years, a major university in Dallas has attempted to obtain an educational license to cover their campus community, but were always told that frequency allocations were not available. To their great surprise, suddenly The Oasis Network (a religious broadcaster from Oklahoma) set up a translator on a 400 ft. tower in Dallas. They are running approximately 140 watts at 90.5 MHz, located just a few miles from colleges campus. While I have no personal grudge against the translator operator, they do little to serve the community, while the university is a very vibrant part of the area. This does not seem to be either just or fair. Establishing a huge network of satellite fed low power stations is not in keeping with the spirit of the original concept of a translator. It is also not in the spirit of LPFM.

I want to take the opportunity to thank you for at least considering these ideas, as well as for the time and effort you have already put into the proposal. LPFM is a worthwhile cause. I understand that the advocates for NAB, CBP, PBS, etc. would prefer that LPFM never comes to pass. If it must, they would like to limit these small broadcasters to a point that they become totally ineffective. Evidentially the established broadcasters are concerned about market share erosion caused by 100 watt non commercial stations. If that is correct, it says volumes about how they conceive the quality of their own product.

Sincerely,



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