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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
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DATE: JANUARY 14, 2000 TIME:
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I support creation of a Low Power FM (LPFM) radio service as outlined in the FCC's Notice of Proposed Rulemaking in docket MM 99-25, which called for creation of 1000 watt and 100 watt commercial and non-commercial LPFM stations nationwide.

It has come to my attention that the FCC intends to vote at its Jan 20th meeting to severely gut this proposal (NPRM) providing for only non-commercial stations with maximum power of 100 watts (coverage thus limited to only 3.5 miles as opposed to 9 miles for a 1000 watt station).

These changes would only protect the business interests of existing stations, while limiting opportunities for new entrants to FM to provide unique, local service.

To place such severe limits on LPFM would doom the service before it begins, making it impossible to obtain enough financial support, without being able to sell commercial air time, to exist—a method of support that has served this nation's stations well for over 75 years!

Not allow commercial support, would do a great disservice to small businesses in America that now cannot afford to advertise on full-power radio stations. Their needs could be met by LPFM stations. A decision to not allow commercial support would have a vast negative impact on small business in America and may well violate some rules of the Small Business Administration.

There were thousands of comments filed in this proceeding supporting the creation of 1000 watt and 100 watt stations, allowing for both commercial and non-commercial operation as set forth in the FCC's NPRM. The public has spoken, and to ignore this mandate would be to ignore the public interest.

Opponents have caused confusion on this issue by claiming that the new LPFM stations would cause interference to existing stations. A receiver study conducted by the FCC proved this to be incorrect. Hundred of full-power FM stations already operate on 2nd and 3rd adjacent channels without any complaints of interference. Surely, low-power FM stations would not create an interference problem.

I would hope that the FCC would vote for LPFM in its full form, as proposed in the NPRM, or delay the vote to clear the way for a workable LPFM service of 1000 watt and 100 watt commercial and non-commercial stations.

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