

ORIGINAL

MM 99-25

JESSE HELMS
NORTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3301

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

January 18, 2000

Via Courier and Facsimile

RECEIVED

The Honorable William E. Kennard, Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Dear Mr. Chairman:

When your Commission considers MM Docket 99-25 (at which the Commission will propose to establish a class of "Low Power FM Radio" licenses) I do hope that the Commission will vote not to establish this new class of radio licenses.

It is certain that a goal of federal communications policy should be to allow the widest possible use of the electromagnetic broadcast spectrum. Increasing the number of competing broadcast opinions is essential to a healthy and vibrant democracy. It affords the greatest number of citizens the opportunity to be heard and the broadest amount of information to be shared.

The American people have that today with the hundreds of FM, AM, and television stations throughout the United States, operating on a very finite amount of broadcast spectrum. I know you agree that the federal government must be a good steward of that limited spectrum, taking no action having the effect of degrading the spectrum reserved for radio and television by placing new classes of licences that clearly would seriously impair current broadcaster's signal quality.

Current FM broadcasters face a considerable degradation of the FM band if the Low Power FM Radio proposal is adopted by the Commission. Despite having the comment period open from January 28 to November 15 1999, not enough consideration has been given to the effects of this proposal if it is adopted. Many technical and other issue questions are still unanswered.

The value of full power commercial and non-commercial FM licenses could be severely degraded because the proposed rules would reduce channel separation between stations which would result in severe interference within full power FM station's broadcast area. Additionally, and more importantly, consumers will not have full quality signals for which they are accustomed.

Kindest regards.

Sincerely,



JESSE HELMS:b

cc: Commissioners Powell, Tristani, Furchtgott-Roth, and Ness

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