

MM 99-25

ORIGINAL



MMS
1 Power TV
PV
WEK

MAR 7 3 23 PM '00

2368 RAYBURN BUILDING
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-4206
(202) 225-4231
FAX: (202) 225-8887

106 SOUTH MAPLE STREET
P.O. BOX 1986
MURFREESBORO, TN 37133
(615) 896-1986
FAX: (615) 896-8218

17 SOUTH JEFFERSON STREET
P.O. BOX 1140
COOKEVILLE, TN 38501
(931) 528-5907

BART GORDON
6TH DISTRICT, TENNESSEE
COMMERCE COMMITTEE
SCIENCE COMMITTEE
RANKING MEMBER
SUBCOMMITTEE ON SPACE

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

March 1, 2000
EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

RECEIVED

MAR 20 2000

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

1878

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

Dear Mr. Chairman,

I am writing to express my concerns about the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) new low power FM radio (LPFM) service. I understand the FCC is in the middle of this rulemaking and that the order may be modified based on comments received in the final 30 day comment period. For this reason, I have not yet cosponsored legislation that would insert itself into this process.

However, having reviewed this issue and attended the Commerce Subcommittee on Telecommunications oversight hearing on Feb 17, 2000, I have serious concerns about the technical issues surrounding this newly proposed service.

Several engineering studies have been conducted to test the level of interference caused by these potential new stations with vastly different conclusions. There seems to be disagreement on how much interference will occur outside of a LPFM station's immediate proximity. But there was no disagreement that there will be interference in the neighborhood in close proximity to LPFM stations, especially for consumers with lower quality radios. I would like to know if the Commission has plans for a buffer zone for these new stations? In addition, does the Commission plan to give the local community a say in the placement of new LPFM stations in their neighborhoods?

I am also interested in learning more about alternatives to new LPFM services, including if space already exists in the non-commercial band to accommodate more stations and if there is any special interference problems in the noncommercial space that would preclude adding more stations. I would like answers to these questions.

Additionally, I am concerned that even with the Commission's

No. of Copies rec'd 2
List ABCDE

best efforts the controversies related to LPFM radio will continue. At minimum, I would like assurances from the Commission that if it decides to go forward with LPFM service then it will be a "slow-go" with very limited initial offerings until we know more about the real life impact these new stations will have on existing radio broadcasters and consumers, especially those with lower quality receivers.

I hope you can answer my questions promptly. Otherwise, I feel it will be my obligation to cosponsor legislation to halt the Commission's rulemaking on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bart", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

BART GORDON
Member of Congress

BJG/dl