

ORIGINAL

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LOUISIANA

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low power*

March 24, 2000

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Ms. Sheryl J. Wilkerson  
Director, Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12<sup>th</sup> Street, SW, Room 8-C453  
Washington, DC 20554

RECEIVED  
MAY 01 2000

Dear Ms. Wilkerson:

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

I have been contacted by Mr. John S. Batson, General Manager of WWNO at the University of New Orleans, regarding the Federal Communication Commission's recent decision to authorize the creation of a low-power FM service and his request that the FCC wait for the results of comprehensive on-air interference testing and the resolution of a number of related issues prior to issuing FCC licenses.

Please give the views and concerns of my constituent every appropriate consideration within federal guidelines. Also, please investigate the enclosed information sent to me and provide me with a report responding to the issues raised in Mr. Batson's letter. Your reply may be forwarded to the attention of Sara Traigle.

Thank you for your attention and assistance.

Sincerely,

JOHN BREAUX  
United States Senator

JB/set  
Enclosure

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March 13, 2000

The Honorable John Breaux  
United States Senate  
Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Breaux:

On behalf of the 86,000 listeners of WWNO-FM in New Orleans and KTLN-FM in Thibodaux, I am writing to you regarding the Federal Communications Commission's recent decision to authorize the creation of a low-power FM (LPFM) service.

We are very concerned about the adverse effects that the FCC's decision will have on the clarity of our broadcast signals. The FCC has decided to proceed with this LPFM service, which will authorize issuance of licenses to hundreds of tiny new FM radio stations throughout the nation, many of which will have service areas extending less than a mile, without properly analyzing the impact on existing broadcasters. These new LPFM broadcasters will be allowed to begin broadcasting without observing the current standard practice of giving non-commercial educational broadcasters protection from interference. Without doubt, our ability to serve our listeners, far and near, will be jeopardized.

Furthermore, the FCC made its decision without having decided on a digital standard for radio broadcasting and without having obtained a real understanding of the potential impact of LPFM on the digital transmission methods that all existing stations are likely to use.

We urge you to contact FCC Chairman William Kennard to ask that he wait for the results of comprehensive on-air interference testing and the resolution of a number of related issues prior to issuing FCC licenses. Another option is to ask

WWNO 89.9FM New Orleans  
KTLN 90.5FM Thibodaux/Houma

New Orleans, Louisiana 70148  
(504) 280-7000 • Toll Free 1-800-286-7002 • FAX (504) 280-6061  
*Listener Supported Affiliate of National Public Radio*

the FCC to create a swift, fair process for remedying any interference to full-service stations, such as WWNO and KTLN, caused by LPFM stations. We are also concerned about interference to translators that enable full-service stations to extend their signals to otherwise unserved or under-served areas and to subcarrier channels that provide radio reading services to the blind and other noncommercial services.

We also urge you to sign on as a co-sponsor of S 2068, introduced by Senator Judd Gregg, which reverses the FCC's recent action.

We applaud the FCC's goal of increasing diversity on the air waves in light of the consolidation of the commercial broadcasting industry; however, to achieve that goal at the expense of stations' existing service of high quality local and national programming does not make sense in terms of both policy and technical considerations. Our stations' broadcast daily news from National Public Radio; the area's *only* daily classical music programming, most of which is locally produced; local features on arts and culture that are integrated into the NPR news programs; and a diverse assortment of weekend programs, including the Metropolitan Opera, Saturday jazz, "A Prairie Home Companion," "Car Talk," and the locally produced early music program, "Continuum."

Failing to resolve the problems posed by LPFM will potentially harm our listeners in the Greater New Orleans and Houma-Thibodaux areas and listeners in other parts of Louisiana and across the nation.

Please write to the FCC regarding these concerns. We strongly believe that the FCC should not proceed with the issuance of LPFM licenses until these issues are resolved.

If you or your staff have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at 504-280-7000 or at my e-mail address: jbatson@uno.edu.

Yours truly,

  
John S. Batson  
General Manager