



**Dockins Broadcast Group**

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**Federal Communications Commission  
Office of the Secretary**

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**Farmington-Fredericktown-Piedmont-Poplar Bluff**

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Good Morning. It is time to make a wrong right. Just as the commission reversed decades old rules and regulations that literally forced broadcasters out of business by finally giving them a chance to survive with a FM translator; and, rules that forced small broadcasters to keep employees on staff for small market stations and were forced to close because of high overhead, these rule changes were good....But almost too late for hundreds of stations whose community lost their local service. And that is what the commission is dedicated to: protecting the Public Interest with our signals.

The same is true for **LPTV**. Thousands of hard working entrepreneurs who are dedicated to broadcasting and serving the public's interest have invested their life savings and every penny they can get to stay afloat. In nearly all cases these dedicated broadcasters have no means to have their signals watched because of technology—cable and satellite....smart phones....computers, and other means.

Why are these broadcasters forced to live and try to operate their **LPTV** stations under a cloak of censorship by yet not having access to cable and satellite channels? The public need is not being served by any means by denying **LPTV** stations to have access to cable or satellite channels, thus keeping the local public in the dark about local news...weather...sports...and other local issues.

In my case I own and operate **KDKZ-LD**. I have requested cable carriage for the past 7 years and always the same....you're too far from our head in in St. Louis outside the 35 mile radius set forth by the commission decades ago. I understand that many **LPTV** stations are used as translators or rebroadcasting a satellite feed from a transmitter site without a studio. Broadcasters such as I and others who are treating their station as a Class A facility deserve the opportunity to be on their cable system to serve the public interest as stated in the Commission's rules.

KDKZ-LD is fully digital at 15.1

KDKZ-LD operates a full studio with live facilities at all times.

KDKZ-LD has (3) full hours of local news daily

KDKZ-LD has round the clock local weather and live coverage of severe weather conditions

KDKZ-LD produces local public interest programs.

KDKZ-LD dedicate Saturday mornings to children's programs

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KDKZ-LD provides local high school coverage of local sporting events year round

KDKZ-LD operates the latest E A S equipment to notify the public of emergency situations.

KDKZ-LD employs a full time staff to provide the public with local news.....local sports.....the latest weather, and public affairs.

KDKZ-LD performs every task set out in the commission's rules and regulations as required of a Class A station but is hindered by out of date rules that is causing extreme hardship of owners of **LPTV** stations just as the rules concerning am broadcasters did.....only then for thousands, it was too little too late. How is the public served more effectively than with a local radio or television station? The answer is **THE PUBLIC IS NOT BEING SERVED** with access denied by cable and satellite providers. I cannot believe that the commission would continue to allow this unfair monopoly to continue to sever the lines of public interest that the commission so proudly champions around.

I am a dedicated broadcaster of over 45 years. I have always stood by the first and foremost rule as I was taught from seasons veterans of broadcasting:

**SERVE THE PUBLIC INTEREST** and everything else will come as it should. I cannot believe with good conscience that any of our commissioners would truly allow this to continue and hurt the public interest as they so proudly protect. Let's see an end to this practice of not allowing access to **LPTV** stations who truly serve their community...unlike cable systems...who basically drag a feed line to your home and offer a buffet of channels.....

I would be willing to speak before the commission if necessary to voice my opinion on behalf of thousands of other **LPTV** broadcasters who are asking and needing the same relief as did our counterparts in the AM spectrum.

All my best

God Bless

Fred Dockins  
CEO/Manager  
Dockins Communications, Inc.