**MB Docket 05-311 – Dixon Comments**

Wednesday, November 14, 2018

10:44 PM

Dear FCC,

It has very recently come to my attention that there are proposed FCC changes, in mind.

These relate to “Second Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 18-131.”

As an individual with substantial television, and radio experience, especially in local Community Access stations, I wish to offer my deep, and profound thoughts on this matter.

Over a number of years, I first developed hour-length shows in Winthrop, Massachusetts (WCAT), covering a variety of public interest, and local issues.

After a number of years, I became involved in CCTV, in Cambridge, Massachusetts, named Best Local Access Station in the United States, at least five times, during a period of over ten years, when I was the host of a weekly half-hour TV, news, interview, and information show; member of the Board, for several years, and otherwise, a Cable Radio classical music announcer, for a number of years.

Recently, having moved to a new community, I am becoming involved, in WinCAM, local access cable TV, in Winchester, Massachusetts.

So, between these three different quality stations, and other experiences, I have over 25 years of experience, in various roles, on-air, and behind-the-scenes.

This should mean, to any thoughtful person, that my knowledge, and understanding, is quite significant.

In effect, the FCC Proposed Rulemaking, FCC 18-131, would disrupt a stable system, that has worked reasonably.

While technological change continues, wise policy experience suggests that existing windows for local community access should be generally left alone; and newer technologies, systems, and ideas permitted to grow distinctly.

Interestingly, there is an example that has had recent proof of these standards. What was once called “crystal radio” still essentially exists as “ham” radio. When catastrophes have occurred in Central America; and in our own United States, at the Katrina catastrophe in New Orleans, it was ham radio operators, operating on small, largely obscure, communications pathways, that were able to provide vital information, to, and from, families, concerned individuals, and others; who otherwise could not readily access such information, given that cell phone towers, had been destroyed; radio, television, and most other forms of communication, had been defeated.

If someone had swept up, or swept out, all ham radio capacities, these small “hobbyists” could not have been even available, to provide vital connections.

So it is, with Local Access Cable TV. The funding mechanisms, are appropriate, have worked for many years, and are best left alone. In fact, other programming mechanisms have flourished, alongside the Local Access Cable TV channels, which provide news, and local information, lesser available by other mechanisms.

Also, as print media is challenged, and shrinks, it is more vital than ever that local opinion is available, and Local Access Cable TV provides one of the few options, in real time, and with greater quality.

While Facebook, and other platforms provide uneven opinions, and quality; for many reasons, including some technical aspects, Local Access Cable TV, has tended to exhibit some valuable journalistic quality.

I firmly urge the FCC to leave the present system alone; withdraw its current Rulemaking on this matter; and NOT fix something, that is Not broken!

Sincerely,

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