

Honorable Commissioners of the FCC,

Community radio is important to Democracy. I am writing on behalf of WXOX-LP in Louisville, Kentucky in support of petition number RM-11749 filed by Rec Networks in April 2015. Specifically, I support a power upgrade of America's LPFM radio stations from 100 to 250 watts where applicable.

WXOX is a community-run nonprofit organization that received an LPFM 100 watt Construction Permit in October of 2014. This all-volunteer station currently broadcasts to the world online and hopes to be on 97.1 FM in Louisville later this year. The station has a mission to amplify the voice of artists and community members upon the FM dial. Through training programs and an open-door policy, WXOX allows members of the community a voice within the highly commercial broadcasting landscape of Louisville, Kentucky. With programs in Spanish, Russian, and Japanese in addition to English, WXOX serves a diverse and often under-represented population in Louisville.

The station serves over 100 area nonprofits by way of hourly Public Service Announcements and a community events calendar. Several nonprofit organizations including the Kentucky Museum of Art and Craft, The Louisville Visual Art Association, Cedar Lake Lodge, and the Asia Institute Crane House have weekly programs on ARTxFM that allow them to connect with the communities they serve.

A power upgrade to 250 watts would enable ARTxFM / WXOX community broadcasters to reach a wider range of the Louisville population with the news and information that matters to them most. A power upgrade would help the station reach buildings within the current service area that are impenetrable with current 100 watt limit. It could also extend the WXOX service area to reach new, and underserved segments of the community.

Likewise, ARTxFM is prepared to provide hyper-local Emergency Broadcasting Services (EBS) in the event that they become necessary. From Katrina to Hugo, the life-saving capability of local radio has been proven over and over again. WXOX is partnering with area first responders to ensure that the station provides the best possible service to the listening area should it become a necessity. An upgrade to 250 watts for stations like WXOX Louisville will not only amplify community voices, it could also save community lives.

Thank you for your serious consideration of RM-11749.