

Docket #99-25

**ASSOCIATION OF
MICRO-POWER
BROADCASTERS**
1635 FRANCISCO ST. #D
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APR 28 1999

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

Dear Mr. Kennard,

Congratulations on your promotion to chairman of the FCC. It's good to see someone with some fresh ideas heading up the agency. After reading your comments published in the New York Times (December 8, 1997) I realized that you might be open to suggestions regarding micro-power fm stations. I support free speech and micro-power radio and I would like to see both prosper. Your concerns about interference are also well understood. Without getting into great detail, here is what I am proposing...

- 1) Create a micro-power fm band between 88 and 92 megahertz. All radio stations in that band would be limited to less than 100 watts, and the FCC would license the stations and give the frequency assignments.
- 2) The license should have a minimal filing fee so people of limited means can also gain access to the airwaves. I would also recommend that this part of the radio band should not be filled up with large commercial and religious broadcasters using "repeaters".
- 3) These micro-power stations should be a community resource and, toward that end, their licenses should be reviewed every two years with a chance for people in that community to challenge the license renewal.
- 4) There should be limits on how many stations can be owned by a single company in a community. The current de-regulation scheme is creating a monopolistic situation that threatens minority access to the airwaves. The use of mega-power transmitters by large commercial broadcasters is also a problem. The FCC should consider lowering the power limits for all broadcasters, which would help cut down on interference and spectrum scarcity.

I have other ideas about how the FCC could better serve the needs of the American people, and I would like to have the chance to discuss these ideas with you. On behalf of all micro-power broadcasters, I hope you will consider the possibility of creating some sort of low power fm radio service. If the regulations were reasonable, I'm sure most "pirate" broadcasters would come into compliance.

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Paul Griffin