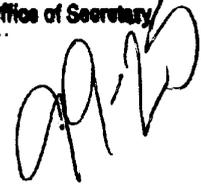


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JUN 25 1999

**From:** Andy Opel <andyo@email.unc.edu>  
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(MPOWELL,SNESS,WKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO2(HF...  
**Date:** Tue, Apr 20, 1999 3:55 AM  
**Subject:** Statement of support for Microradio

Federal Communications Commission  
 Office of Secretary



To The Commissioners,

I am a communication researcher at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and I would like to add my thoughts to the calls for public comment on the proposed rules for low power FM.

I support the 10 items outlined by the Microradio Empowerment Coalition listed below. As a scholar, I have and will continue to speak at conferences about this issue in hopes of raising further support for the democratic use of our public airwaves.

I have been encouraged by statements from a number of you and I realize the FCC is only one part of the law making process. Please continue to work toward expanding the marketplace of ideas.

Thank You,

Andy Opel

MEC's Basic Proposal for the Legalization of Low-Powered FM Stations

1. The microradio service will be non-commercial.
2. There can be only one station per license holder
3. There be local license holding , no absentee licensees.
4. Stations shall be primarily locally programmed.
5. Licensees must be unincorporated not-for-profit associations or non-profit organizations.
6. Equipment shall be "type accepted" which meets basic technical criteria.
7. Problems, whether technical or otherwise, be referred first to a local or regional voluntary microradio organization and the FCC be a forum of last resort.
8. Amnesty and return of property for microbroadcasters who suffered government seizure of property and fines.
9. Licensing fees be affordable to all communities.
10. Low powered stations be allocated space when the transition is made to digital radio.

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Andy Opel  
Graduate Student  
School of Journalism and Mass Communication  
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill  
919-942-9360

I believe it is my job as a scholar and a citizen to show how we are surrounded by "messages," products of political and economic power, and to say that we must know how to analyze and criticize them." -- Umberto Eco

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