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JUL 1 4 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Yvonne Tasker-Rothenberg <ytasker@dreamscape.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 2:54 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

We are writing to commend you and the Federal Communications Commission for taking action on an issue of great importance to us - ending the 21-year ban on community access to the airwaves. We have become increasingly concerned about the growing concentration of the media in our country and are pleased that the Commission is responding to public outcry to increase opportunities for local communities to use our radio airwaves.

One of the fundamental tenets of our democracy is to ensure that diverse interests have opportunities to express themselves, not merely to be the recipients of what a handful of other people tell them. It is a nonnegotiable component of our right to a free press and free speech.

Radio is perhaps the most qualified of any media outlet to provide community access. It is a relatively inexpensive medium to produce and is well-suited to cover community issues and local culture. Unfortunately, over the past three years the U.S. radio broadcasting industry has experienced an unprecedented wave of consolidation and mergers. As a result, the electronic medium best suited to inexpensive, local programming has become arguably the most regimented and centralized of our major media. Even a multimillionaire would have trouble entering the radio broadcasting industry today, because economies of scale (permitted by deregulation) demand that a firm own numerous stations in several markets to be even remotely competitive. As for the person of average means, their lot is limited to being a passive consumer of an increasingly monopolistic industry that has less and less competitive pressure to heed the diverse, local needs of listeners. And, for poor people and others who are considered unimportant to the advertising community, radio increasingly has little to offer. Again, the great tragedy of this situation is that radio is the ideal medium to provide an accessible local service for democratic communications of interest and value to the entire population.

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The strong interest in independent radio stations shows that the creation of low power radio service would have wide public support. The tremendous demand for microradio is demonstrated by the emergence of a national Free Radio Movement, widespread civil disobedience, constitutional challenges of the Commission's aggressively enforced 21-year ban, as well as the proliferation of unlicensed community radio stations supported by local government, whose operators broadcast at the risk of financial losses, seizure of property, arrest, and in some cases, imprisonment.

In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.
In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

1. Microradio licenses should be awarded for non-commercial use only. The current radio spectrum is dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to non-commercial community groups who want to use radio to communicate with their neighbors, not make profit from them.

2. Licenses should be held locally, be non-transferable, affordable to all communities, easy to apply for and limited to one per license holder; they should NOT be businesses.

3. Power levels should be up to 100 watts in urban areas and up to 250 watts in rural areas.

4. The Commission should NOT diminish new low-power stations to "secondary status." It would be a tragedy to take away licenses from low-power community stations just because the Commission subsequently granted a power increase to a pre-existing station or granted a new high power license somewhere nearby.

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12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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street=216 Oakmont Dr
city=Dewitt
state=NY
zip=13214
=Send to FCC

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From: Nance Cedar <nancecedar@rocketmail.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("First.Lady@wh...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 3:29 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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5. The Commission should grant full amnesty for the microbroadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines. Their property should be returned. They should be granted equal opportunity in applying for and receiving new licenses.

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

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Federal Communications Commission
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From: "Michael A. Lewis" <ffmal@aurora.alaska.edu>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 4:37 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Additional Comments=
name=Michael Lewis
street=P.O. Box 80073
city=Fairbanks
state=AK
zip=99708
=Send to FCC

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From: jimbo <jimmyr@postoffice.swbell.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 5:40 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
James S Ragan--WORKER Houston,Texas
Additional Comments=
name=James Ragan
street=7610 Moline
city=Houston
state=TX
zip=77087
=Send to FCC

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Dominick Franzini <dfranzin@earthlink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 5:56 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
Commissioner Michael Powell
Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary ClintonVice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25
Regarding The Creation of Low Power FM Licenses: RM-9242, RM-9208

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In addition, the Commission has stated that in the last year alone, 13,000 people inquired regarding the possibility of obtaining a license for low power broadcasting in their communities.
In support with the efforts of the Microradio Empowerment Coalition (mec@tao.ca), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose interest in microradio is to communicate, to educate, and to inform, not to make money. We are confident you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

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Additional Comments=
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street=1306 SE 26th Avenue
city=Portland
state=OR
zip=07214
=Send to FCC

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From: Paul Nelson <pen@speakeasy.org>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 5:55 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
Paul Nelson - Holistic Radio Journalist - It Plays in Peoria Productions
Additional Comments=Minorities and secular organizations should get first crack at new frequencies and every effort should be made to LIMIT bureaucracy and keep fronts for corporations OUT of microradio.
name=Paul E. Nelson
street=14 S. Division
city=Auburn
state=WA
zip=98001
=Send to FCC

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From: Hijo de Cisco y Rita Hayworth <ciscos_kid@earthlink.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 10:50 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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Additional Comments=The letter says it best. I would only be very reluctant to allow any commercial applications at all. SPEECH IS OUR MOST IMPORTANT FREEDOM! You can tell how good your government is by its reaction to REAL free speech.
name=O.A. Somera
street=2013 Prairie View Dr.
city=Urbana
state=IL
zip=61802
=Send to FCC