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JUL 1 4 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

**From:** "Bruce D. Martin" <bruce@sd.amug.org>
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
**Date:** Sun, Jul 11, 1999 12:46 AM
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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.

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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=The idea of Microradio is as American as the idea of a free press.
In 1776, people could cheaply print handbils and effectively spread their ideas to the public. In modern times, technology only makes this practical with the internet and microradio. If the technology worries in the early days of radio and the FCC had been solved in 1776, microradio would have been endorsed by everyone then.
Thank you for listening.

name=Bruce D. Martin
street=3800 W Chandler #1118
city=Chandler
state=AZ
zip=85226
=Send to FCC

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**From:** "Brown" <D.J.Brown@home.com>
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
**Date:** Sun, Jul 11, 1999 2:14 AM
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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Commissioner Susan Ness
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Debra Brown
street=4078 San Capri Terrace
city=Victoria
state=BC
zip=
=Send to FCC

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**From:** Sid Selvidge <sidsel@blues.org>
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K5DOM.
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 10:26 AM
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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Additional Comments=
name=Sid Selvidge
street=593 Madewood Drive
city=Memphis
state=TN
zip=38103
=Send to FCC

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**From:** <tnewman@kent.edu>
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 10:49 AM
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

name=Timothy Newman

street=107 1/2 East Main

city=Ravenna

state=Ohio

zip=44266

=Send to FCC

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

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ORIGINAL

99-25

**From:** Leo Horrigan <lhorriga@jhsph.edu>
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:19 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.
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
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Additional Comments=I work extensively with low-income communities that are struggling to improve their living conditions. One of my great frustrations is the inability to get local commercial media to pay attention to such issues, however compelling. I presume that these issues are not important to them because they do not enhance their search for profit. The FCC would, however, do much to enhance our democracy by giving this boost to not-for-profit, low-watt broadcasters who could give communities a voice.
name=Leo Horrigan
street=2724 St. Paul St.
city=Baltimore
state=MD
zip=21218
=Send to FCC

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JUL 1 4 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

**From:** X X <lergee_riot@usa.net>
**To:** K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","...
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 11:24 AM
**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
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Salvatore Fuschetto
11 Munson Ave.
West Hempstead, NY 11552

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JUL 1 4 1999
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Office of Secretary

**From:** <MASTERRAR0@aol.com>
**To:** K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
**Date:** Mon, Jul 12, 1999 11:35 AM
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

99-25

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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Naomi Podber
627 Avenue Y
Brooklyn, NY 11235