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JUL 1 4 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: "Flastnam, FirstName" <Flastnam@forbes.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K5DOM.
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 12:41 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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Awarding licenses for new low power FM radio stations would empower local communities with a new public forum to express its many voices, cultures, ideas, and needs. Low power radio stations would create much needed public fora for a variety of groups - including community activists, youth, ethnic and linguistic minorities, the religious community, local artists and cultural associations - and provide a forum for dialogue and debate about important local and public interest issues. These kinds of stations would strengthen community identity in urban neighborhoods, rural towns and other communities which are currently too small to win attention from "mainstream", profit-driven media.

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.

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.

6. Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micropower organization for assistance or mediation (e.g. the Ham radio model). The FCC should be the forum of last resort.

7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.

8. If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be licensed last. In this instance, there should be a 2 year "headstart" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC's mandate. The right to make money through local radio is not a protection under the FCC's mandate.

9. Stations should be locally programmed. However recorded materials such as music, poetry, documentaries, features etc. may be used. Sharing of program materials and resources among micro and community stations is strongly encouraged. No more than 20% of air time from off-site feeds or syndicated tapes.

10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial associations, and non-profit organizations.

11. Within two years new spectrum space (including any future digital spectrum space) should be allocated for continued expansion of microradio broadcasters so that any community group that wishes to broadcast has access to available spectrum space (frequencies). Further, all manufacturers of consumer radio receivers for sale in the United States should be required to include this spectrum set aside for microradio broadcasters.

12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.

Again, we commend Chairman Kennard and the Commission for your willingness to address these issues. We are hopeful that the creation of a new class of low power FM radio licensing becomes a reality during the Chairman's present term. We look forward to working on making the airwaves more accessible for our local communities.

Signed,

MEC Honorary Chair:
Robert W. McChesney, Madison

Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia
Peter Franck, San Francisco
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
Alan Korn, San Francisco
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director,Center for Constitutional Rights
George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
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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

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city=Brooklyn
state=NY
zip=11211
=Send to FCC

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JUL 1 4 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Olga D'Alessandro <jdman@magpage.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Fri, Jul 2, 1999 12:42 PM
Subject: Comments to the Chairman

Olga D'Alessandro (jdman@magpage.com) writes:

Federal Communications Commission
Attn: NPRM # FCC 99-6
445 12 Street, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20554 (202) 418-0260
Email: wkennard@fcc.gov, sness@fcc.gov, hfurchtg@fcc.gov, mpowell@fcc.gov, gtristan@fcc.gov,
fccinfo@fcc.gov

Regarding the Legalization of Low Power FM (NPRM # FCC 99-6, MM Docket 99-25):

I urge you to adopt rules for licensing Low Power FM radio that prioritize the needs of under-served and
under-financed communities. Your office has the power, and the mandate, to make sure that ordinary
people can claim a piece of the pie that big corporations currently dominate and control. I am confident
you agree that broad citizen access to information and culture is at the heart of a democratic society.

To support this vision, I urge you to legalize micro-radio with the following concerns in mind:

1.There should be COMPLETELY NON-COMMERCIAL SERVICE. The current radio spectrum is
dominated by commercial media. LPFM licenses should go to community groups who want to use
radio to communicate, not to make a profit.
2.Licenses should be held locally, limited to one per license holder, affordable to all communities, easy
to apply for, and should NOT be businesses.
3.Power levels should go up to, but not exceed, 100 watts in urban areas; 250 watts in rural areas -
NO 1,000 watt stations.
4.NO secondary status for Low Power FM. This ensures that LPFM stations won't get bumped from
their assigned frequency by higher-powered, better-financed stations at a later date.
5.Micro-broadcast pioneers who have suffered government seizure and fines should be forgiven, have
their property returned, and be prioritized for new licenses.
6.Problems, technical or otherwise, should be referred to the local voluntary micro-radio organization
for assistance or mediation (eg the successful amateur radio model). The FCC should be brought in
as the last resort.
7.Low Power FM must be included in the future of the emerging digital radio technology .
8.If the FCC intends to license some commercial stations, they must be

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licensed last. In this instance,
there should be a 2 year "head start" for non-commercial licenses. The right of citizens to
communicate is protected by the Constitution and the FCC s mandate. The right to make money
through local radio is not.

Thank you for considering these vital issues. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

Sincerely,
Date: 7/2/99
From: Mr.Joseph D'Alessandro
94 Angola Estates
Lewes,Delaware 19958
302-945-1554

Subject:Member # 8512 7568 1596 4858 ACLU

Subject:Member People For the American Way
2000 M Street, NW, Suite 400
Washington, DC 20036

Server protocol: HTTP/1.0
Remote host: 216.155.32.118
Remote IP address: 216.155.32.118

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JUL 1 4 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Mary Riddick
To: "tlhellwege@worldnet.att.net"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 2:36 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

Chairman Kennard requested that I acknowledge and review your comment and that it forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

>>> "hellwege terry" <tlhellwege@worldnet.att.net> 07/10 5:55 AM >>>
=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,
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cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

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THIS DATE
CANCELLED
JUL 13 1999
F.C.C.
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press
Juliet Schor--Harvard University
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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zip=78249
=Send to FCC

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Charles Stephen Knause <cknause@sprintmail.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K
Date: Sun, Jul 11, 1999 2:52 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
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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city=Ormond Beach
state=FL
zip=32174
=Send to FCC

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Federal Communications Commission
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99-25

From: <LBORZ@aol.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD)
Date: Sun, Jul 11, 1999 12:46 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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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
Lawrence P. Borzumato, Ed.D. Adjunct Prof., Comm., SUNy New Patlz, NY

CC: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("govcampaign%billbradley.com.gwb%mai...

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JUL 1 4 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Lyn Gerry <lyn@radio4all.org>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Sun, Jul 11, 1999 12:42 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
Federal Communications Commission
The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
Bill Bradley, and George Bush, Jr.
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition

MM Docket No. 99-25
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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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Additional Comments=
name=Lyn Gerry
street=722 Waterloo Geneva Rd
city=Waterloo
state=NY
zip=13165
=Send to FCC

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RECEIVED
JUL 14 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: thandisizwe chimurenga <crsnsouth@mindspring.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNESS),K...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 10:39 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
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=Thandisizwe Chimurenga, Organizer
street=485 Culberson Street, SW
city=Atlanta,
state=GA
zip=30310
=Send to FCC

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JUL 1 4 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Hannah Miller <h_d_miller@yahoo.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca"
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 6:20 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
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The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554

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Hannah Miller - 2030 S. Sherbourne #2, Los Angeles, CA 90034

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