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ORIGINAL
DK-99-25
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JUL 14 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Mary Riddick
To: "ds450@sirius.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 11:59 AM
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 has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

>>> Dave2 <ds450@sirius.com> 07/09 12:56 PM >>>
=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

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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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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
name=David Kaplowitz
street=3403 Piedmont Ave., #401
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state=CA
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=Send to FCC

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ORIGINAL

From: Mary Riddick
To: "jcammisa@haverford.edu"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 11:56 AM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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>>> giuseppe cammisa <jcammisa@haverford.edu> 07/09 12:41 PM >>>
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Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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street=194 hoover avenue
city=norristown
state=pa
zip=19403
=Send to FCC

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JUL 1 4 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Mary Riddick
To: "jmanners@brillscontent.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 11:55 AM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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>>> Jane Manners <jmanners@brillscontent.com> 07/09 12:34 PM >>>
=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
Commissioner Gloria Tristani,
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Commissioner Susan Ness
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Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=
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city=New York
state=NY
zip=10011
=Send to FCC

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Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Mary Riddick
To: "Aatcham@aol.com"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 2:31 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 has been forwarded to the FCC Secretary's Office for association with Docket#99-25.

>>> <Aatcham@aol.com> 07/10 2:42 AM >>>
To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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Commissioner Susan Ness
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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,

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

Ashton F. Chambers
630 East 85th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11236-3430

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JUL 1 4 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Hannah Miller <h_d_miller@yahoo.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),ROUTE_A.GWIA1("mec@tao.ca","...
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 6:22 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 Clinton
> Vice 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

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> 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.
>
> 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
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> 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
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> the Chairman's present term. We look forward to
> working on making the
> airwaves more accessible for our local communities.
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> Signed,
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> Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
> Gloria Steinem--Ms.
> Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
> Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
>
> Hannah Miller - 2030 S. Sherbourne #2, Los Angeles,
> CA 90034

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JUL 1 4 1999
Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

99-25

From: Tony Bushard <abushard@eagle.cc.ukans.edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K5DOM....
Date: Sat, Jul 10, 1999 1:21 PM
Subject: Low power community radio

To Chairman Kennard, and Commissioners Ness, Furchtgott-Roth, Powell and Tristani:

I am writing you about what is often called community radio: low wattage, low cost, non-commercial radio. I believe we in this country need access to the diversity of opinion, music, news and other community affairs that are broadcast over low-power community radio.

Democracy depends on dialog and expression of views from all segments of our society. Low power community radio is a significant way for those views to be expressed and heard. Today in the United States views that will offend major advertisers usually are edited out, left unheard from major commercial media.

It is ironic, perhaps symptomatic of the state of our democracy, that our courts protect and defend the tremendourly large amounts of money spent on political advertising - much of it simplistic - while grassroots, community groups have been left unheard, or put off the air.

Low power community radio is utilized in both Canada and Japan. I appeal to you to see to it that an orderly licensing procedure is established for low power, low cost community radio across the United States.

Yours truly, Mark Larson, 706 Illinois Street, Lawrence, KS, 66044
(e-mail: lars.owl@mailcity.com)

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JUL 14 1999

Federal Communications Commission
Office of Secretary

From: Mary Riddick
To: "ralle02@emory.edu"@ROUTE_A.GWIA1
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 2:31 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.

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JUL 13 1999
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
THIS DATE CANCELLED FCC OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

>>> Rebecca Allen <ralle02@emory.edu> 07/10 1:08 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 Clinton, Vice 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.

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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

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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.

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

Additional Comments=
name=Rebecca / Allen
street=405 4th Street
city=Atlanta
state=GA
zip=30308
=Send to FCC