

DK-9925

ORIGINAL

From: Vicki Robin <newroadmap@igc.org>
To: Mary Riddick <MRIDDICK@fcc.gov>
Date: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 12:54 PM
Subject: Re: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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JUL 16 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

Please keep me updated on this initiative. Thank you, Vicki Robin

Mary Riddick wrote:

- >
- > 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.
- >
- > >>> Vicki Robin <newroadmap@igc.org> 07/09 1:09 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 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 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

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- > 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.
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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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- > 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.
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- > 7. LPFM must be protected and maintained in the future as radio makes
- > the transition from analog to digital broadcasting.
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- > 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.
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- > 10. Licenses should be awarded to unincorporated non-commercial
- > associations, and non-profit organizations.
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- > 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.
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- > 12. Licensing fees should be affordable to all communities.
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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.
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- > Signed,
- >
- > MEC Honorary Chair:
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- >
- > 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
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- > Robert W. McChesney-- University Of Illinois, Urbana
- > Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
- > Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
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- > George Gerbner--Founder, Cultural Environment Movement
- > Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
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- > Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
- > Gloria Steinem--Ms.
- > Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
- > Kurt Vonnegut-- Author
- >
- > Additional Comments=
- > name=Vicki Robin
- > street=5557 38th Ave NE
- > city=Seattle
- > state=WA
- > zip=98105
- > =Send to FCC

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From: Joe Futrelle <futrelle@brappo.isdn.uiuc.edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 11:33 AM
Subject: InSupportoftheMECLetteronMMDocketNo.99-25

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Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego
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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

Additional Comments=

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Joseph Futrelle

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state=
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61801

=
Send to FCC

From: Joe Futrelle <futrelle@brappo.isdn.uiuc.edu>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Tue, Jul 13, 1999 11:32 AM
Subject: InSupportoftheMECLetteronMMDocketNo.99-25

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Additional Comments=

name=
Joseph Futrelle

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1204 S. Race

city=
Urbana

state=
IL

zip=
61801

=
Send to FCC

DK-99-25
ORIGINAL

From: Joyca Cunnan <joyca@saber.net>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 5:06 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

Additional Comments=
name=John Thomas
street=145 Canon Ave #2117
city=Santa Rosa
state=CA
zip=95404
=Send to FC

ORIGINAL DK-99-25

From: John Thomas <treebeard@igc.org>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 4:21 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

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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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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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Steering Committee:
Sara Zia Ebrahimi, Philadelphia
Diane Fleming, Philadelphia

DK-99-25

From: "Allan L. Haskell" <allanlee@cyberdude.com>
To: K1DOM.K1PO1(BKENNARD),K4DOM.K4PO2(SNESS,MPOWELL),K...
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 4:21 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL

From: Allan L. Haskell
 P.O. Box 2893
 Gainesville, Florida 32602

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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 Commissioner Susan Ness
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 The Portals 455 Twelfth Street S.W. Washington, DC 20554
 cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore,
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Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
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DK-99-25

From: Catherine Austin Fitts <caf@solarivillage.com>
To: K2DOM.K2PO1(GTRISTAN),K4DOM.K4PO2(MPOWELL,SNES),K...
Date: Mon, Jul 12, 1999 4:15 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL

=To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman,
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 Commissioner Susan Ness
 Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth
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cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton Vice President Al Gore,
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 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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Additional Comments=
name=Joyca Cunnan
street=PO Box 417
city=Covelo
state=CA
zip=95428
=Send to FCC