

DK-99-25

**From:** Bill Furner <tiles@pyramidtile.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 19, 1999 1:38 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

ORIGINAL

This email was submitted by Bill Furner (tiles@pyramidtile.com) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 00:38:06

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

-----  
comments: Mr.Tile

Hear a bunch of great tunes at:  
<http://www.mp3.com/tile>

Nobody heard of him until he was about 49 years old. Now he is receiving thousands of download at [mp3.com/tile](http://www.mp3.com/tile)!

Why does this happen? How can a persons musical life go down the tubes. Because of the strick stereo types of the "outside of net world"! On the net your not just another pretty face, you can actually be heard for the quality of you tunes, not how cut or hansome you look.

Watch out world, mp3.com is soon to be IPO hoppin!

address: 7 Harbor Dr.

city: Corte Madera

state: Ca

zip: 94925

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

-----  
**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  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition  
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

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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.

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](mailto:mec@tao.ca)) and Americans for Radio Diversity ([ard@radparker.com](mailto:ard@radparker.com)), 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

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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

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  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
Janine Jackson--Fairness and Accuracy in Reporting  
Herbert Schiller--Professor Emeritus, University of California, San Diego  
Juliet Schor--Harvard University  
Mark Crispin Miller--New York University  
Laura Flanders--national producer for Pacifica Radio  
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Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program

Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)  
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Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education  
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Carl Jensen--Founder, Project Censored  
Ellen Braune--Publicist  
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology  
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots  
Movement for Self Determination  
Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

D/K-99-25

**From:** Robert Joseph Wilson <dogdroppings@hotmail.com>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 19, 1999 2:16 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Robert Joseph Wilson (dogdroppings@hotmail.com) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 01:16:42

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US.

address: 30341 County Rd. 15

city: Roseau

state: MN

zip: 56751

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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  
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cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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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](mailto:mec@tao.ca)) and Americans for Radio Diversity ([ard@radparker.com](mailto:ard@radparker.com)), we urge you to legalize microradio in order to benefit non-commercial community groups whose

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

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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,

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

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  
Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania  
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Ellen Braune--Publicist  
Jamie Love--Director, Consumer Project on Technology  
Efia Nwangaza -- Attorney/Coordinator, Greenville Malcolm X Grassroots  
Movement for Self Determination

Dan Simon--Founder, Seven Stories Press  
Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert  
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author  
Gloria Steinem--Ms.  
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist  
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

**From:** Rayna Khaitan <raynak@ucla.edu>  
**To:** ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
**Date:** Mon, Jul 19, 1999 4:28 AM  
**Subject:** In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Rayna Khaitan (raynak@ucla.edu) on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 03:28:22

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: please allow the public to influence what the radio plays. commercial radio has not only pushed musical freedom off the dial but variety as well. why even have several stations when they all share a core common playlist? radio has all but lost its unique ability to speak to people anymore, but it can all change if the public is once again given the power to represent its many, many interests. stations such as those of college radio need a place on the dial without the mega-millions necessary these days to succeed. commercial radio would be okay if other stations survived an opportunity to be heard, but the money seems to have clouded the real impetus of radio -- i vote for the right to listen to something other than what mtv's money can incessantly perpetuate. i believe radio can still be a means for the transmission of all types of music -- not just what the corporate eye sees fit.

address: 525 1/2 Landfair Ave.

city: Los Angeles

state: CA

zip: 90024

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

**To:** The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

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

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: alan peevers <peeves@aol.com>  
To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
Date: Mon, Jul 19, 1999 3:06 AM  
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by alan peevers (peeves@aol.com)  
on Monday, July 19, 1999 at 02:06:20

comments: I fully support this initiative. Any measure which gives American's a voice is good for society  
by bolstering our right to Free Speech.

address: 1211 delaware

city: santa cruz

state: ca

zip: 95060

Submit: Send to FCC

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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Diane Fleming, Philadelphia  
Peter Franck, San Francisco  
Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.  
Alan Korn, San Francisco  
Greg Ruggiero, New York City

Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University  
Nancy Kranich--Librarian  
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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

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Patty Schroeder <pattyschro@aol.com>  
To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
Date: Sun, Jul 18, 1999 10:33 PM  
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Patty Schroeder (pattyschro@aol.com) on Sunday, July 18, 1999 at 21:33:49

comments: LPFM radio is mandatory to keep the airwaves FREE! We need interesting cutting edge radio.

address: po box 1361

city: Rancho Santa Fe

state: CA

zip: 92067-1361

Submit: Send to FCC

RECEIVED

JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman  
Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
Commissioner Michael Powell  
Commissioner Susan Ness  
Commissioner Harold Furchgott-Roth

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Federal Communications Commission  
The Portals  
455 Twelfth Street S.W.  
Washington, DC 20554

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore  
cc: Microradio Empowerment Coalition  
cc: Americans for Radio Diversity

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

Dear Honorable Chairman Kennard,

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Roger Schaefer <RKSchaefer@Compuserve.com>  
To: ROUTE\_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")  
Date: Sun, Jul 18, 1999 11:34 PM  
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Roger Schaefer (RKSchaefer@Compuserve.com) on Sunday, July 18, 1999 at 22:34:06

comments: First, I welcome this change in the use of our airwaves. The air is free, and who and what is communicated across and through it should also be free. Governments have long kept the airwaves for the small player/broadcaster out it. I'm from the Twin Cities in Minnesota and we've had a up & down radio market (particularly over the last few years) concerning the quality and variety of programming available. The addition and availability of new low-power community based radio stations will help in strengthening our diverse communities and cultures by giving the power to the people to disseminate information that is important to them to their peers. Please put forth your best effort to give this freedom back to the people. Thank you.

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JUL 30 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 1105 Hudson Road

city: St Paul

state: MN

zip: 55106-6107

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

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Commissioner Gloria Tristani  
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