

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Phil Salathe <psalathe@bennington.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 3:43 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Phil Salathe (psalathe@bennington.edu) on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 14:43:35

AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: Please, please don't mess this one up guys. The state of radio today is near-tragic, and if you want to see it improve, this is absolutely necessary. If you reflect on this issue, your conscience will make it very clear to you what the right choice is...rarely do issues in telecommunications have such a clear demarcation between good and evil, but this is one of those times. As a musician, a composer, a teacher, an all-around music professional, and above all a humanist, this issue is of vital interest to me. I hope that we are all able to thank you for making the morally correct choice.

address: Bennington College

city: Bennington

state: VT

zip: 05201

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,

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

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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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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) and Americans for Radio Diversity (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.

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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

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

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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,

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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
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Al Lewis--Organizer ("Grandpa" from the Munsters)
Dee Dee Halleck--Deep Dish TV
Ben Bagdikian--University of California, Berkeley
Loretta Ross--Executive Director, National Center for Human Rights Education
David C. Korten, Author, and Chair of the Positive Futures Network,
publishers of YES Magazine

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Mark A. Landrum <mark@bayosphere.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 3:28 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Mark A. Landrum (mark@bayosphere.com) on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 14:28:43

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

address: 6110 Fairdale #109

city: Houston

state: TX

zip: 77057

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

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Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania

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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert
Barbara Ehrenreich--Author
Gloria Steinem--Ms.
Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK99-25

From: Sean Alexander <vhyperion@hotmail.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 7:05 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Sean Alexander (vhyperion@hotmail.com) on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 18:05:50

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address: 3840 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE

city: Redmond

state: WA

zip: 98052

Submit: Send to FCC

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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

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

cc: President Clinton, Hillary Clinton, Vice President Al Gore
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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Carissa Potts <Asirac@aol.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 2:58 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Carissa Potts (Asirac@aol.com) on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 13:58:51

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AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 4164 Olive Ave

city: Sarasota

state: FL

zip: 34231

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

Submit: Send to FCC

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

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

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Jeff James <famethrowa@pdq.net>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 2:58 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Jeff James (famethrowa@pdq.net)
 on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 13:58:39

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AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I haven't listened to a commercial station or the radio in general for a very long time, because the airwaves are crowded with white-washed "popular" drek that I cannot stomach. Most of the music I listen to has never come within a ten-mile radius of heavy rotation, and I revel in the amazing texture that can be found outside of what record companies would like me to listen to. The only time I have ever truly enjoyed listening to the radio was when I happened upon a station broadcasting from somewhere around Waco, Texas, of all places. Somehow, within this vast wasteland of bad country music stations and worse Christianity-for-sale stations, somebody had the guts to make a station that played Weezer up next to Public Enemy and Radiohead next to the Beastie Boys, and those were just the bands I recognized. Sure, the station did play some songs I didn't like, but they also played a whole lot of music I had never heard before in my life, most of which was amazing !

! and wonderful, just for the sheer originality packed within the few short hours the station broadcast that day. You see, I can only assume that the station was some sort of underground college radio station, perhaps from Baylor or something, because it went off the air at about seven at night, and I couldn't find it again for the rest of my visit. The point of this little anecdote is that I wish I could find that radio station again; all cities in all states of the United States should have this kind of little niche radio station that allows its operators to express themselves as they see fit, whether it be by playing music that is a little bit left of center or by broadcasting a debate between two guys who would otherwise be watching wrestling on TV and drinking beer... even if all they debate about is wrestling. The human spirit needs these kind of outlets, and I for one hope that the FCC is willing and able to create an environment open to whoever and whatever wants to a!

! dd a little bit of spirit to the dial. Not forgetting, of course, that the human spirit shouldn't have to break for commercial.

address: 2818 Hidden Knoll Ct.

city: Sugarland

state: TX

zip: 77478

Submit: Send to FCC

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

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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,

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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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) and Americans for Radio Diversity (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.
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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:
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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
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Noam Chomsky--Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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Nancy Kranich--Librarian
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ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: benjamin clasen <bpclasen@csbsju.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 5:11 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by benjamin clasen (bpclasen@csbsju.edu) on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 16:11:20

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 1439 goodrich ave

city: st. paul

state: mn

zip: 55105

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE GR 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

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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) and Americans for Radio Diversity (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

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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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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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Howard Zinn--Professor Emeritus, Boston University
Nancy Kranich--Librarian
Ron Daniels--Executive Director ,Center for Constitutional Rights
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Edward Herman--Wharton School, University of Pennsylvania
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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=
name=d'cady sarahchild
street=41 leisure park circle
city=santa rosa
state=ca
zip=95401
=Send to FCC

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: JESSE WILLIAM ROBBINS <z3n4i@email.unc.edu>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Sat, Jul 17, 1999 2:53 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

This email was submitted by JESSE WILLIAM ROBBINS (z3n4i@email.unc.edu) on Saturday, July 17, 1999 at 13:53:39

comments: i think that this is a great idea, with the wealth of crap that one encounters on the radio today, a refreshing, local, non-commercial choice would be much appreciated.

address: 726 rutherford street

city: durham

state: nc

zip: 27705

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
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Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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