

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

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

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

address: 3840 West Lake Sammamish Pkwy NE

city: Redmond

state: WA

zip: 98052

Submit: Send to FCC

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AUG 02 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

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 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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To support this vision, we urge you to legalize microradio with the following concerns in mind:

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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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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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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.

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Signed,

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Amanda Huron, Washington, D.C.
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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

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

ORIGINAL

DK-99-25

From: Marshal Wayne Giggelman <gigglehertz@yahoo.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 6:56 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

This email was submitted by Marshal Wayne Giggelman (gigglehertz@yahoo.com) on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 17:56:10

comments: The vast majority of radio stations in my region are owned by out of town corporations that do not cater to my interests or those of my community. I don't know much about constitutional free speech issues, but I'm tired of having public airwave content (PUBLIC!!!) dictated by big business. NPR playing classical music is not enough.

address: 735 Giggelman Ln

city: St Stephen

state: SC

zip: 29479

Submit: Send to FCC

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Office of Secretary

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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

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

ORIGINAL

DK 99-25

From: Shari York Stowell <stowell@primenet.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 8:59 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Shari York Stowell (stowell@primenet.com) on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 19:59:50

comments: This would be a much-needed expansion of the rights of free speech. I for one am sick and tired of nothing but the "flavor-of-the-month" over and over, as independent stations with original playlists are swallowed up by the cookie-cutter conglomerates. This would be one much-needed antidote.

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

address: 1740 Marne Ave.

city: Toledo

state: OH

zip: 43613

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Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist
Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK 99-25

From: Alan Lapp <bigal@levelfive.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 6:45 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

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This email was submitted by Alan Lapp (bigal@levelfive.com) on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 17:45:07

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I support the creation of an LPFM radio system in the US because it will dilute the control large corporate broadcasting companies have over what is available on the air. It will return us, the US radio listener, to an era when DJs are allowed to make their own musical selections. This will lead to a greater diversity of programming choices, which I believe to be an important goal.

address: 2722 Munson Street

city: Wheaton

state: Maryland

zip: 20902

Submit: Send to FCC

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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
David Barsamian--Director, Alternative Radio
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Elaine Bernard--Harvard Trade Union Program
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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: Dominique Gizelle <dominique@bangonrecords.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 5:41 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

This email was submitted by Dominique Gizelle (dominique@bangonrecords.com) on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 16:41:24

AUG 02 1999

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

comments: I am an independent woman artist and owner of a small independent record label. Commercial radio stations will not air my label's music or any music that is not produced by an established artist on a major record label. There are many thousands of artists and independent labels facing this set of circumstances. LPFM radio will provide a vehicle for independent artists to have their music heard.

I support the creation of LPFM radio.

address: PO Box 884

city: Bellmore

state: NY

zip: 11710

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

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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) 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.
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

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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Gary Ruskin--Director, Commercial Alert

Barbara Ehrenreich--Author

Gloria Steinem--Ms.

Mumia Abu-Jamal--Journalist

Kurt Vonnegut-- Author

ORIGINAL

DK 99-25

From: David O Nelson <davidnelson@feracorp.com>
To: ROUTE_A.GWIA1("fcomments@casiotone.radparker.com")
Date: Fri, Jul 16, 1999 5:18 PM
Subject: In Support of the MEC Letter on MM Docket No. 99-25

RECEIVED

AUG 02 1999

This email was submitted by David O Nelson (davidnelson@feracorp.com) on Friday, July 16, 1999 at 16:18:24

comments: 50% of the Houston radio market is owned by the same corporation. This act would enhance both the quality and diversity of radio programming. Recently, a pirate radio station was shut down in Houston despite its popularity.

address: 16120 Stuebener-Airline #205

city: Spring

state: TX

zip: 77379

Submit: Send to FCC

EX PARTE OR LATE FILED

To: The Honorable William E. Kennard Chairman
Commissioner Gloria Tristani
Commissioner Michael Powell
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