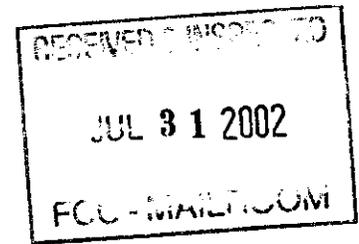


Merle E. Dowd
9105 Fortuna Drive #8415
Mercer Island, WA 98040

(206) 232-2171



July 21, 2002

Office of the Secretary
Federal Trade Commission
445 12th Street S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Ref: Docket No. 02-136

Gentlemen:

The reference relates to the current David and Goliath conflict between KMIH, our local high school FM station (David), and Oregon station KMCQ (Goliath). Hopefully, this letter will provide one more stone for David to sling at Goliath and settle this affair in favor of the local 'lil guy.

As a long-time resident of Mercer Island, I have followed the travails of KMIH through its struggles for money and local talent to keep the station on the air for the benefit of our community. Our four sons graduated from Mercer Island High School. Currently the station provides two distinct benefits:

1. Opportunities for students to learn entrepreneurial, media presentation, community relations and small business skills far outside usual school classes. They and we need these unique avenues for community interaction within a totally unstructured learning environment.

2. Communication between many elements of our school system and the community. For example, KMIH broadcasts sports activities that keep us aware of outcomes and play-by-play action. KMIH offers forums for discussion among students and residents that foster understanding. The loss of this venue for communication would do irreparable harm to the psyche of this community.

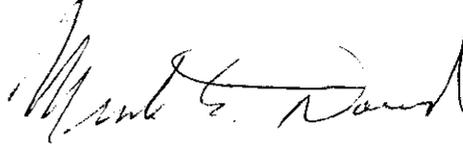
I understand the financial concerns underlying this case. KMCQ stands to benefit from a wider audience in what its management perceives as an underserved area. But what is the

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benefit of one more music and commercial-laden station compared to the unique small, but highly motivated group of students using a self-developed practical classroom for learning communication skills that also benefit the community?

I urge you to consider this unique situation as a David vs. Goliath conflict and come to the aid of David. We all appreciate the struggles of an underdog in fighting for its place in the sun—or in this case for its place in the limited spectrum of available frequencies for broadcast. Let's hear it for the 'lil guy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Merle E. Dowd". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the typed name.

Merle E. Dowd
Retired, Citizen at Large