

Dear commissioners of the FCC:

Independent musicians have been excluded from radio airplay due to the ownership of multiple stations in single radio markets. Prior to the new ruling, stations were inclined to play good quality independent music to compete with other stations for a unique sound and programming. Now with the extensive use of radio programming consultants, independent and local music artist have a very difficult, if not impossible, time getting airplay, even in their local market. This is due to corporations not based in the market owning all of the top stations in the market.

As an independent artist who has enjoyed local support for over twenty-five years I understand the change. I live in my market, I pay taxes in my market, I perform in my market, but I can't get air play in my market. Can I suggest that the Commission direct stations to set aside at least 5% of their play list for local and/or independent artist. We would prefer 10% or more, however, it would at least give those local musicians with excellent music a chance to have their songs receive airplay (competition breeds success and excellence.)

Recently, I had a song that sold over 5,000 copies in the market, the stations owned by the largest radio corporation in the country refused to play the record even after it was the #1 independent record in the market based on sales. (I called the station over 10 times requesting an appointment and they never even returned my call.) They played similar records on major labels that didn't sell in our market. Those records were backed by major label promotion and paid radio consultants.

This is unfair and should be addressed by the FCC. We're just asking that radio stations give local and independent artist a fair chance to receive airplay in the local market in which they live and pay taxes.

Thank you for your consideration and welcome back to Richmond, Virginia.