

I am a 28 y/o vocalist from Northeastern, Oregon. Approximately, 21 years of live performance and studio performance experience.

2 Demo's out. 3 locally distributed collaborative albums. I am currently unsigned, "self managed".

I have spoken to one radio station about doing some commercial work. I have never heard back from them.

No local stations in my location have airtime dedicated to local talent, or featuring local talent at even the smallest level.

I do not feel local radio stations have an interest, in serving local talent. I feel they believe, only national talent sells. My local music community suffers, because of this, we could definitely use the added publicity, and promotion, and I feel that given the opportunity, many local musicians could prove "play worthy".

My Belief is the FCC should, define local programming, not only for local music communities, but for commerce, and civic issues.

I believe the FCC should define local programming, as a minimum of 30 minutes per week, featuring locally originated talent, and bands. Playlists should be determined both by national and local charts. (local charts defined by similar genre stations in that area, or by other local media)

Of course, all local programming is important! I deeply feel there is a need for air time dedicated to the local music scene.

I believe this is strictly a community service, and I would hope the stations and other businesses would take time, to make these efforts, as goodwill service to their communities. I think it should not be mandated by the FCC, or, counted as local programming. This would mean fundraising activities would deduct air time from local talent. Which I do not believe would be fair.

Any way you look at radio broadcasting, (only exceptions would be college) they are accepting "payola". Maybe not in the direct form as stated in federal laws, but in other non-direct ways, such as sponsors only want, nationally known, and charted artists, believing only they will attract listeners, in turn will sell their product/service. In turn radio stations receive more money in advertising. Payola is rampant in more ways than one. It's hurting the local artists which are the heart of the music business. There is great talent at the local level that will never be heard. Many of them just looking for an outlet to express themselves, many not looking to make hits, just for the opportunity to be heard and make a modest living doing what they love. Some of us especially, in rural areas do not have as many opportunities as those in urban areas. Rural areas, are especially, deprived of even the smallest bit of recognition, due to "payola".

I also feel those artist, doing free concerts, for radio stations are guilty of breaking federal "payola" laws. They certainly get more attention from stations than any other artist, at least direct preceding and after the event. Radio stations are paid not only for the community service gratitude, promotions of their own companies and station, but they also gain from extra ads from businesses during that time period, and most times afterward.

Voice tracking is good and bad, some rural stations can not afford round the clock local broadcasters. However, those communities lose due to lack of local opinion, and local issues. I believe except for those stations designated Talk Radio, the FCC should mandate all stations to have live local broadcasts between the hours of 6am and 9pm Mon-Fri, and 12pm to 8pm Sat- Sun. Exceptions made only on national holidays. All other hours can be any combination of live local, syndicate, or voice-tracked from other markets.

I believe stations, should be made to make decisions according to their particular demographical area. Stations should be required to keep and monitor local charts. The FCC should mandate a particular percentage, of playlists dedicated to information gathered from those local charts. Also, I think we have all said, at least to ourselves, "how many times are they going to play that song today?".

Yes I do believe LPFM stations are a great tool for the local music scene, as long as their intentions are to serve the community good. There are only so many allowed, naturally, due to availability of space on the FM dial, in that particular area. So some kind of enforcement needs to be made to keep those few stations from becoming tyrants in hogging all the airplay. Not all artist would be able to own their own LPFM license. In rural area's they do not help as much, for one the range would not be able to include very many homes, also in most rural areas the FM dial has not changed much and most people would not know that station existed at all, their dial has been programmed the same for years. We need to address these issues also.

This is definitely an important issue for all independent artists in the industry, no matter at what level they are in the industry! I do, what I do, for the love of the art! I am really not looking to make major hits. It would be nice though! I am looking for as many opportunities as possible for the chance, to express myself and make at least a modest living doing the thing I love the most!

So, for the FCC to take time to look at an issue that's very important to me, (small time local artist struggling to make ends meet) means a whole lot to me! I thank you, the FCC, for taking the time to read this, and for publicly addressing this issue!