

I am a concerned citizen who numbers, among my family and friends, several talented musicians. I also purchase a fair amount of music online, through Napster, and in "hard" form, from local record companies and from Amazon, Barnes and Noble, and independent music marketing companies.

I also purchase sheet music in many genres from music stores and internet resources, including digital downloads (Sunhawk).

Additionally, I am a fledgling songwriter, writing my first songs at the ripe age of 59! (My music will probably never be heard unless one of my inner circle performs it)

One problem that concerns me is the limited access musicians have to the music business; because this control has been increasingly concentrated in the hands of a few power brokers, a musician's chance of getting airplay has diminished further in recent years. I feel that local stations should be given strong incentives to help develop local talent. Otherwise access to broadcast will become overwhelmingly the exclusive province of a few recording labels and a few 'artists' who have caught the attention of the recording industry executives. This stifles innovation and diversity. It also fails to reward musical excellence. The contemporary record industry too often rewards foul language and bad attitudes and often ignores sensitivity, accomplishment and beauty.

Stations vary in their commitment to their local communities. Many stations participate in community charity events, usually by having a booth and being mentioned in their print ads. This is part of being community-responsive but is not all a radio station needs to do. In my area, college affiliated radio stations do the best job of giving airplay to new artists, but their range is extremely limited; from my home I cannot consistently listen to any college radio station because of poor reception.

Voice tracking deprives communities of the opportunity to employ local announcers, which results in both a loss of local jobs and a loss of local oversight. Also, a national announcer will not have a stake in developing local artists.

National playlists only further the stranglehold on the industry of a few record labels and a few artists.

Local residents will never get to know the incredible range of local talent if they do not have an opportunity hear their work.

I appreciate the FCC's interest in addressing the issue of local programming.