

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

Secretary Federal Communications Commission
445 12th St. SW
Washington DC 20554

**Letter of Support for
WIUX-LP's Petition for Reconsideration on Docket 06-77**

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to appeal to the FCC to reconsider its policy decision to give higher priority for access to a particular FM radio frequency to commercial stations over low-power FM stations. In particular, this policy will have a detrimental impact to the community in Bloomington, Indiana as WIUX could be forced off of the air as Edinburg, Indiana's WYGB attempts to boost it's signal strength.

WIUX is a student-run radio station based out of Indiana University, whose campus is located in Bloomington. The station has broadcasted for 40 years. The majority of that broadcasting history was on an AM frequency before moving to the 100.3 FM frequency last year. This move, and expanded signal range that it provided, was very exciting, not only for those involved in the station, but for the entire university community and to Bloomington radio listeners as a whole. Bloomington is a small community (69,291 residents according to the 2000 census) with a significant percentage of the population being university students (37,958 during the fall 2005 semester). The university plays a large role in the community, not only in its demographics, but in the close ties that the university has with city government, the public schools, and local non-profit projects and agencies. In the last few decades, the student body and the university administration play a prominent role in shaping many of the development decisions affecting the city of Bloomington and in shaping the community's culture. WIUX not only serves as a prominent voice for the student population in Bloomington, but it serves as a highly accessible and important bridge between the student population and the community-at-large. No other radio outlet in Bloomington serves this important role. If WIUX is forced off of the air because of its lower priority as a low-power station, it will effectively help to silence to voice of a large and important portion of the community. The airwaves are a public resource and to silence any member of the public or to remove a forum for community dialogue is certainly not in the public interest.

In addition to representing the student population on the airwaves, WIUX's programming is fairly unique to the Bloomington community. Its music format features mostly independent and local artists who are not represented on most commercial stations. WIUX's commitment to featuring local artists again underscores the stations importance to the local culture. Also, WIUX features locally produced sports, talk, and public-affairs programming that is rarely replicated on the FM dial. In Bloomington, I can think of only one other station that provides similar programming. On the other hand, any commercial station in Bloomington has many other stations that offer similar programming. The loss of WIUX would be a sizeable blow to the diversity of programming available to radio listeners in Bloomington.

No. of Copies rec'd 0
List ABCDE

Finally, WIUX serves as an educational tool for students at the university interested in future careers in broadcast media. If WIUX were to go off the air, this would not only be a loss to radio listeners, but also to students and educators as it would be difficult to replicate the real-world broadcasting experience that comes from operating the station.

While I have expressed many reasons why it is important for WIUX to maintain its ability to broadcast on the 100.3 FM frequency, and why the loss of the station would not be in the public's best interest, I am sure that the situation facing WIUX is shared by many low-power FM stations across the country. Policy regarding the prioritization of low-power FM stations relative to commercial FM stations needs to be reconsidered, not just in the case of WIUX FM, but in general. Across the board, low power FM stations represent members of a community who are not represented by commercial radio and maintain close ties with the community where they are physically located. This should be one of the goals of broadcast media and one protected by regulations. By not providing equal access to the airwaves, radio becomes a media produced for and by a select few instead of the public as a whole.

Sincerely,

Geoffrey Hing