

I support Low Power FM expansion.

Restrictions passed in 2000 by Congress, under pressure from the National Association of Broadcasters, to "protect" the 100,000 watt radio stations owned by media conglomerates such as Clear Channel and CBS, greatly reduced the number of low-power FM (LPFM) licenses available through the FCC to local community groups, especially in urban areas.

Low power FM radio stations broadcast at 100 watts or less in communities all across the country. Noncommercial groups like schools, churches, and local arts or organizing associations are great candidates for these licenses. The Federal Communications Commission gave out hundreds of these licenses for free in 2000 but Congress limited the service, keeping it from thousands of other communities, especially inside cities.

A community radio station can offer something for almost everyone, with diverse programs that reflect the needs and interests of the local residents.

Some ideas for possible programming include:

Local public affairs programs, such as news, youth training, local sporting events, neighborhood history, city council hearings, election debates, call-in shows with local figures, politicians, and advice programs with doctors, lawyers, or other professionals.

Activist programs that explore different issues, such as the environment, education or health care.

Cultural programs, such as a variety of the worlds many musical traditions, radio theatre, dramatic readings of novels, poetry, interviews, etc.

The FCC and an independent \$3.2 million dollar study have proven that LPFM present no interference to traditional FM stations. The report was published by the MITRE Corporation on July 13, 2003.