

I am opposed to: FCC proposal that would force every radio station to take programming advice from community advisory boards broadly representative of an area's population.

I am opposed to: FCC requirements that stations report, every three months, how much programming of various types has been broadcast, who produced it, and how it reflects the interests of a cross-section of local residents – even those who do not share Gospel values.

I am opposed to: FCC forcing stations to grant a certain amount of airtime to any group that requests it – much like cable television systems make time available on “public access channels.”

But unlike public access channels, which were created as a kind of open public forum, Christian Radio is a combination of pulpit and mission. The government cannot force messages from any pulpit, nor insist that missionaries promulgate viewpoints contrary to the Gospel. The same way, it should not be forcing Christian Radio stations to deliver the messages promulgated by secular humanists, abortionists or atheists.

Comments in Response to Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking  
MB Docket No. 04-233

I submit the following comments in response to the Localism Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (the “NPRM”), released Jan. 24, 2008, in MB Docket No. 04-233.

Any new FCC rules, policies or procedures must not violate First Amendment rights. A number of proposals discussed in the NPRM, if enacted, would do so – and must not be adopted.

(1) The FCC must not force radio stations, especially religious broadcasters, to take advice from people who do not share their values. The NPRM's proposed advisory board proposals would impose such unconstitutional mandates. Religious broadcasters who resist advice from those who don't share their values could face increased harassment, complaints and even loss of license for choosing to follow their own consciences, rather than allowing incompatible viewpoints to shape their programming. The First Amendment prohibits government, including the FCC, from dictating what viewpoints a broadcaster, particularly a religious broadcaster, must present.

(2) The FCC must not turn every radio station into a public forum where anyone and everyone has rights to air time. Proposed public access requirements would do so – even if a religious broadcaster conscientiously objects to the message. The First Amendment forbids imposition of message delivery mandates on any religion.

(3) The FCC must not force revelation of specific editorial decision-making information. The choice of programming, especially religious programming, is not properly dictated by any government agency –

and proposals to force reporting on such things as who produced what programs would intrude on constitutionally-protected editorial choices.

(4) The FCC must not establish a two-tiered renewal system in which certain licensees would be automatically barred from routine renewal application processing. The proposed mandatory special renewal review of certain classes of applicants by the Commissioners themselves would amount to coercion of religious broadcasters. Those who stay true to their consciences and present only the messages they correspond to their beliefs could face long, expensive and potentially ruinous renewal proceedings.

(5) Many Christian broadcasters operate on tight budgets, as do many smaller market secular stations. Keeping the electricity flowing is often a challenge. Yet, the Commission proposes to further squeeze niche and smaller market broadcasters, by substantially raising costs in two ways: (a) by requiring staff presence whenever a station is on the air and, (b) by further restricting main studio location choices. Raising costs with these proposals would force service cutbacks – and curtailed service is contrary to the public interest.

We urge the FCC not to adopt rules, procedures or policies discussed above.

Steven & Brenda Thibodeau

---

Name

---

Title (if any)

---

Organization (if any)

March 12 2008

Date

337 Myers Road  
Rocky Mount, NC 27801  
Address

2524463520  
Phone