

I currently enjoy a diverse range of choices on the radio. In Milwaukee, I usually listen to several relatively small stations (eg. 88.9 alternative rock, 89.7 public radio, and 105.3 contemporary Christian music). Each is very different. The current regulatory and business environments have made it possible for these disparate stations to be available to whomever wants to enjoy them.

While I don't pretend to understand all the background behind the proposals being considered by the FCC, I would encourage the Commission to not add regulations that would add financial burden to any radio station. As my example shows, the same listeners can be using a variety of radio stations, and each can be run independently. More government oversight, such as requiring community advisory boards to coordinate programming, increased periodic reporting of programming types, or having higher hurdles to jump over during a license renewal process, is simply not needed.

Radio is the quintessential medium to allow Americans to exercise choice and free speech. Governmental control should be limited to the encouragement and guarantee of fair access to the airwaves; we only need minimal regulations that provide for orderly management of the radio spectrum and common decency among the programmers. The listening public can then make their choices as to what is listened to or supported.

Finally, the use of technologies such as remote satellite feeds and translator stations should not be restricted further. We no longer rely on humans to act as telephone operators who are busy redirecting our calls. Television programming is both local and national. Radio stations should also be given the prerogative of serving their audience in the best way; don't over-regulate the industry by restricting how stations run their business.

Thanks for the opportunity to share my comments.