

I am writing to voice my objections to some of the proposed rules regarding localization. I live in Fort Smith, AR, and despite a smorgasbord of radio choices, I listen to the non-profit, listener-supported, station Air1, which broadcasts throughout the U.S.

Throughout my life, I have at various times changed my listening habits to move from pop/rock to easy-listening, to country, and back again. As my son moved into his teenage years, I worried about the message he was hearing on the local pop station, whose annual contests have become much-anticipated community events. I admit to listening to this station during my own teenage years, and in times of inclement weather I still turn my dial right there.

I never believed my son would choose Christian music, because the local Christian stations are for the most part pretty out-of-touch. However, somehow he found Air1 and got me listening to it. Air1 bills itself as the positive alternative, and nothing could be more accurate. The news is positive, the music is positive and comparable in style to what he would hear on the rock station. No one else here is offering that.

As I stated before, when there is a storm, we change to a station that we know provides local weather coverage. I am under no mis-conception that Air1 is locally staffed, so I do not count on them for matters of local import. If the sky looks dark and the wind is blowing, I look for weather coverage elsewhere. If I care to know the local news, I turn on the TV and watch the 5:00 news or read the local newspaper online. If I care to know the national news, I watch the Nightly news following the local broadcast, or I look up CNN or Foxnews online.

I don't think one station or even one broadcast medium can provide all the needs of any one group, and to try to encourage the development of such small isolated stations at the expense of others is to encourage segregation--a huge step in the wrong direction.

To dictate what any station must air is to risk having the press become the mouthpiece of the government--a hallmark of all that is not freedom.