



June 11, 2008

Marlene H. Dortch  
Secretary  
Federal Communications Commission  
445 12 Street, SW  
Washington, D.C. 20554

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am the General Manager of Blakeney Communications, Inc., a locally owned group of four small market radio stations in Laurel-Hattiesburg, Mississippi. As a female broadcaster, I want you to know the increased workload, documentation and paperwork that you are proposing under the "Localism" rulemaking, including conducting advisory board meetings, will fall heavily on female and minority broadcasters in small markets.

While I serve as general manager, I am also the sales manager and webmaster and perform many other tasks that fall under the titles of personnel, operations, programming and technical (repairing computers, etc.). Multitasking and wearing many hats are just part of the job in small markets, especially in an era of increased competition from many new forms of media which didn't exist only a few years ago.

I am guessing that most of the Commissioners and Commission staff hail from major markets or at least large or medium markets where radio & televisions stations have fairly large staffs. You seem to think that it would be no big deal to reassign one or two staff members to handle the increased workload and paperwork created by your localism proposals.

In small markets, however, the burden will fall heavily on female and minority broadcasters who already wear many hats at small stations or small clusters. As a female broadcaster, I can assure you that your proposals will hurt and discourage many female and minority broadcasters (and all small market broadcasters) by creating burdensome, bureaucratic, regulatory busywork and paperwork (which no one will read) and which will not ultimately help provide better local programming than we are already working very hard every day to provide for our communities and coverage area.

Sincerely,

Debbie Blakeney

**Blakeney Communications, Inc.**  
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