

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554
Re: MM Docket No. 99-25 (LPFM Proceeding)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

I am writing to thank the FCC Commissioners for their recent steps towards licensing new low power FM radio stations. As a supporter of the Chicago Independent Radio Project (CHIRP), I am writing today to ask you to be sure to allow room for new LPFMs in large markets like Chicago. It's crucial to allow new grassroots radio stations like CHIRP the opportunity to broadcast to our vibrant, diverse urban audiences.

I strongly support the idea of dismissing all pending translator licenses in markets where a set LPFM "floor" could not be met if additional translator licenses were granted. I'd also ask that, moving forward, the Commission make sure there is room for urban LPFMs in the country's largest markets by providing opportunities for waives for second adjacent channels, as called for in the Local Community Radio Act.

LPFMs like CHIRP allow for sharing of community news and events alongside eclectic programming unheard elsewhere on the radio dial. While much has been written on the role and usefulness of LPFMs in emergency situations (most notably, Hurricane Katrina: <http://www.chron.com/disp/story.mpl/editorial/outlook/7228828.html>), it's important to consider that LPFMs fill a niche during regular broadcast times. 93% of all Americans listen to the radio on a weekly basis (Source: Arbitron RADAR - <http://www.themediadash.com/?p=132>); having a diverse offering of programming is integral to ensuring all audiences are well-represented on the radio spectrum. The only way for these programming options to become a reality is by allowing LPFMs to broadcast throughout urban populations.

Please give groups like CHIRP the chance to apply for broadcast licenses by providing the flexibility to ensure frequencies can be found to license new LPFMs in urban areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: Brendan O'Neill

Brendan O'Neill
Chicago Independent Radio Project