

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

The locally-produced programming provisions that the FCC is considering for inclusion in rule-making related to the Local Community Radio Act are ones that I believe are vital to the intent of the Act. Locally produced content serves the community in ways that more generic material cannot. For instance, a vital element is to provide current and timely emergency information to residents.

Here in Central Texas where I live, the fires in nearby Bastrop and Travis counties were a stark reminder of that importance. It has raised community awareness of that issue and our community wants to apply for an LPFM license.

Requiring a generous amount of local programming will foster the development of new relationships within communities. A radio station can also provide important information about current events in the arts or community events and bring people together. In a small community like Wimberley, it can make people who have to commute to work in other towns in the area aware of things to do with their families right here at home. Keeping people in town rather than seeking entertainment and shopping opportunities in larger towns nearby will enhance our economy and our civic connections.

It will also provide residents with a forum to discuss issues of local importance or to hear those discussions. The give-and-take of dialogue is a better tool for democracy than the exchange of letters to the editor in a bi-weekly newspaper, our only current local forum that is broadly accessible.

Requiring locally produced content and the education mission provision of the rules provides an opportunity for students and adults in communities to learn the skills of producing radio, from the technical production aspect to the communication skills involved in interviewing members of the community. It also provides an opportunity for local musicians to have their music played and for the next generation of budding musicians to learn the skills of using a microphone to connect with an audience and record their music.

The passage of the Local Community Radio Act is going to provide the FCC with the rare opportunity to license hundreds, perhaps thousands, of new LPFM stations. The requirement for locally produced content holds the key to the potential of these stations to be responsive to their local communities and to actually serve those communities. This is the heart and soul of the potential encapsulated in the Local Community Radio Act.

Plenty of stations in every media market already offer nationally syndicated programming.

Diverse local news and local information are virtually missing in today's media landscape. In a media landscape in which local news content is shrinking and small newspapers are struggling for survival, we need LPFM more than ever.

I urge the FCC to please ensure that LPFM stations truly meet local community needs by requiring all new LPFM stations to broadcast a minimum amount of locally-originated programming each week.

Respectfully,  
Susan Raybuck  
Wimberley TX