

Dear Federal Communications Commission,

I live in La Crosse, WI, where the majority of radio stations are owned by two radio groups. We also have a number of public radio stations, one of which I am employed at.

I'm also the co-adviser of the University of Wisconsin- La Crosse's Broadcast Club, which currently operates a student-run internet radio station. We are also reaching out to community members. This fall, we hope to apply for a Low Power FM signal.

I cannot understate the importance this station would have on our community. It would be a place for a number of voices, ideas, backgrounds, and entertainment to come together. That stage is missing in this area. While some radio stations do produce good local programming, there needs to be more.

Last year, Congress passed the Local Community Radio Act, directing the FCC to expand community radio. But where I live, in the 54601 zip code in LA CROSSE, WI, there is no room for a new Low Power FM (LPFM) community radio station under the current FCC rules. In many other cities, the demand for community radio is much greater than the number of channels available.

Fortunately, Congress authorized the FCC to grant special waivers allowing LPFM stations in more locations, as long as these stations don't cause interference to neighboring stations. These second adjacent frequency waivers would permit LPFM stations to use the same engineering standards that other FM radio services have used for years.

Using these modern engineering rules would open up hundreds of channels for community radio across the country. But incumbent broadcasters are trying to keep communities off the dial, demanding that LPFM stations play by different rules than their own stations enjoy.

In the 54601 zip code, we need second adjacent frequency waivers to have access to community radio. Please give community radio a chance

to thrive in LA CROSSE and nationwide. As long as new stations won't cause interference, all LPFM applicants should be able to use second adjacent frequency waivers.

Respectfully,
Maureen McCollum
La Crosse WI