

Dear Federal Communications Commission:

I am writing in support of a locally-originated programming requirement for new Low Power FM (LPFM) stations. LPFM stations are uniquely designed to broadcast locally relevant content, from neighborhood events to homegrown artists to life-saving emergency response.

I write to you as a founding member of CHIRP Radio, a Chicago community radio station which is currently internet-based. All content is locally produced, and we strive to introduce our audience to the vibrant local music scene. We hope some day to reach a broader audience through LPFM?not everyone has access to the internet, an terrestrial radio is still very important.

Thanks to the passage of the Local Community Radio Act, the FCC will be licensing hundreds or even thousands of new LPFM stations nationwide. Yet without a local programming requirement, there's no guarantee that the new stations will fulfill their unique potential. There will likely be stiff competition for these licenses, with many more applicants than available channels. If these scarce opportunities go to stations with no local content, many cities and towns could miss their last chance at locally responsive community radio.

Other radio stations offer nationally syndicated programming, but diverse local news and local information are missing in today's media landscape. As small newspapers are struggling and broadcasters produce less local news, we need LPFM more than ever.

Please ensure that LPFM stations truly meet local community needs by requiring new LPFM stations to broadcast a minimum amount of locally-originated programming each week.

Respectfully,
Tony Breed
Chicago IL