

I'm on the board of directors of CHIRP Radio in Chicago. We joined the effort to expand low-power FM back in 2007 in hopes of being able to get a LPFM license. We were thrilled when the Local Community Radio Act was signed into law in 2011. We have more than 160 volunteers, and have already launched our station online at CHIRPradio.org. We're live and local every day from 6am-midnight, and we look forward to the day when even more people -- especially those without access to technology -- will be able to hear us on a broadcast signal.

However, under the current conditions, CHIRP and similar groups in other large markets still won't be able to apply for LPFM broadcast licenses -- there's no room for new stations under the current FCC rules. There's so much need for adventurous, diverse, local voices in big cities, but no room on the dial.

That's why I'm writing today. Congress included in the LCRA the ability of the FCC to grant waivers that would make room for more LPFM stations in cities, allowing new stations to be placed on second adjacent channels as long as there is no interference. This placement is already allowed for translators, which are licensed at 250 watts, while LPFMs are typically only licensed at 100 watts.

I'm asking you today to allow the use of these modern engineering rules to open up spaces for new community radio stations across the country, including Chicago and other big cities. If they are given the opportunity, these stations will grow and thrive, providing new and exciting local voices in urban environments. Please allow LPFM applicants like CHIRP to be granted second adjacent frequency waivers when no interference will be created.

I firmly believe that this action is necessary to permit local creative access to the public airwaves in the most populated areas of the country, including Chicago.

Sincerely,

Andrew Mall
Board of Directors, CHIRP Radio

Respectfully,
Andrew Mall
Chicago IL