

Last year, Congress passed the Local Community Radio Act, directing the FCC to expand community radio. But in many cities and towns across the country, there is simply no room for new Low Power FM (LPFM) community radio stations under the current FCC rules. In urban areas, 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.

As a former BBC World Service Radio sound engineer, I cannot emphasize enough the importance of local community radio. It gives back to its local community so much more than any large or commercially funded service. It also has the ability to broadcast programmes that otherwise would not be heard, as they are of purely local interest. I have been involved in many such organisations in the UK, & they are highly regarded and cherished by the communities they serve.

Please give community radio a chance to thrive. As long as new stations won't cause interference, all LPFM applicants should be able to use second adjacent frequency waivers.

Respectfully,  
Richard Fitzpatrick  
Hillsborough NC