

The Next Step to Community Radio: Write the FCC about Saving Open Channels for Us

The Local Community Radio Act has created an amazing opportunity for groups all around the country to start low power community radio stations. However, the FCC has more work to do to make sure communities have a chance to start stations locally. We need your help to remind the FCC just how many groups around the country are depending on them to preserve channels for future low power radio stations.

What's going on?

The issue is **translators**. These are small stations (under 250 watts) that repeat what's on another station. There are around 6,500 applications for translators pending at the FCC. Since LPFMs and translators are of a similar size and licensed in similar ways, some of the spots you could put a translator are also possibilities for future LPFM stations. If all the translator applications are processed before community radio has a chance to apply for channels, translators could use up all the space available for community radio, especially in cities where the FM dial is already crowded.

On July 12th, the FCC made a proposal that could ensure that translator applications won't prevent new community groups from having a chance to start stations in the largest cities in the country. Their plan attempts to protect the future of low power community radio, but it's only a proposal. **The FCC needs to hear from us!**

The Local Community Radio Act of 2010 directs the FCC to save space for local community stations "based on the needs of local communities." To save channels for community radio in your city, write the FCC and let them know why your community needs local low power radio.

What to include in your letter to the FCC:

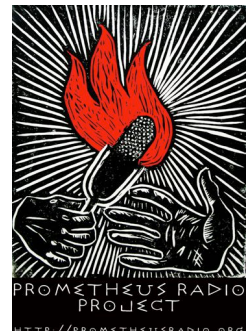
- ✓ The name, location, and mission of your group (use the template below on your organization's letterhead).
- ✓ If your organization is thinking of applying for a station, why your organization wants an LPFM and how you would use it to further your work or improve your community. You can also explain why your city needs community radio. What voices are not being represented in the media? You might wish to talk about groups historically disenfranchised from media access and representation in your community, such as women, communities of color, or speakers of languages other than English. Who would benefit?
- ✓ Tell the FCC they must choose a proposal that preserves channels for LPFM in urban areas, so your community can hear its own voices on the airwaves.

How to write a letter to the FCC:

Submit your letter to the FCC electronic filing system at <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display?z=p90u6>.

The proceeding number is 99-25 and the type of filing is LETTER. Fill in your own name and contact info, and leave the fields about your counsel blank. Upload and submit!

Contact Brandy at the Prometheus Radio Project (brandy@prometheusradio.org, 215.727.9620 x518) and we'll help you with your submission, talking points, or send you a sample letter.



July [date], 2010

Ms. Marlene H. Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:

MM Docket No. 99-25 (LPFM Proceeding)

Dear Ms. Dortch:

[Your letter here.]

Respectfully submitted,

Signed: [Your name]

[Your name again, your organization, your title if you want to include one]