

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**. Translators 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 low power stations and translators are licensed in similar ways, some of the spots you could put a translator are also possibilities for future low power community stations. If all the translator applications are processed before new community stations have 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 12, the FCC made a proposal that could ensure that translator applications won't prevent community groups from starting new 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, and we need to make sure it will benefit as many cities as possible. **The FCC needs to hear from us!**

To save channels for community radio in your city, write the FCC and let them know why your community needs local low power radio.

How to write a letter to the FCC:

You can use the template on the next page to write your letter (on your organization's letterhead, if applicable).

Then submit your letter to the FCC electronic filing system at <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/>. The proceeding number is 99-25 and the type of filing is COMMENT. Fill in your own name (or your organization's name) and contact info, and leave the fields about your attorney blank. Under the Document field, click "Browse," then "choose file" to upload your letter.

Or to type your comment directly into the FCC site (instead of uploading a letter), go to <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/hotdocket/list>. The page will direct you to "click here" if the docket you're looking for is not listed. Click on the 'click here' link, and enter 99-25 as the proceeding number, then complete your comment.

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.

What else can you do?

Send a template email to the FCC and your elected officials at: <http://bit.ly/LCRadio> then forward the template email link widely to get others to sign on!

To learn more, check out prometheusradio.org/take_action



August [date], 2011

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:

What to include in your letter to the FCC:

- ✓ Introduce your group's name, location, and mission, explaining how your organization serves your community (skip this if you're writing as an individual).
- ✓ If your organization is thinking of applying for a station, explain how a radio station would help to further your work or improve your community. (Concrete examples are great! Would your station support the local bluegrass scene, fight city budget cuts, cover high school football, produce youth radio theater?)
- ✓ Even if you're not planning to apply for a station, you can explain why your city needs community radio. What voices are not being represented in the media? What's unique about your area that isn't reflected in mass-market media? How would more local radio help in times of emergencies? How has the loss of local news impacted your area, and how would community-driven radio help?
- ✓ Tell the FCC to preserve channels for low power FM radio in your community.

Respectfully submitted,

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