

PROMETHEUS RADIO PROJECT

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Low power FM (LPFM) supporters and friends,

Have you applied for an LPFM to serve your community in the past, or are you interested in applying for an LPFM in the future? We need your help to remind the FCC that hundreds of groups around the country are depending on them to preserve channels for future low power radio stations.

The issue is translators. These are repeater stations which extend the signals of existing radio stations. In 2003, so many applications for translators were filed (around 13,000) that the FCC froze the entire application process to save channels for LPFM. Since then, the FCC has proposed a “ten cap” on the 2003 translator applications, limiting each organization to ten applications for new translators, as a way to save frequencies for low power stations.

Unfortunately, the ten cap won’t work. A recent study from Common Frequency, a California-based public interest group, shows that a ten cap will do little to preserve space on the dial for future LPFMs, especially in urban areas. In fact, many cities will be left with only one or two frequencies for a community radio station, while translators will take many more. (Read prometheusradio.org/bestlaidplans to learn more.)

To save channels for community radio in your city, write the FCC and remind them that communities are still waiting for their chance at the airwaves.

What to include in your letter to the FCC:

- The name, location, and mission of your group (put the letter template below on your organization’s letterhead).
- Why your organization wants an LPFM, and how you would use it to further your work or improve your community.
- Tell the FCC how the “ten cap” would affect your city and your chances for a radio station. Write in your own words, but here are some points to adapt for your letter:
 - Communities in urban areas have been waiting ten years for the opportunity to start community radio stations.
 - A ten cap would be a devastating blow to low power radio, especially in urban areas. The FCC must find a different solution to resolve the translator auction, one that saves channels for LPFM.
 - Groups with just one chance to serve their communities with a truly local radio station should have their chance before translators take all available frequencies in your city.
 - If your city is mentioned in the Common Frequency study, let the FCC know how the ten cap will affect your community’s chances at local radio.
 - FM spectrum is scarce, and an upcoming LPFM filing window may be the last opportunity for local groups to access the airwaves. The FCC should prioritize localism in setting policy for translators and low power FM.

Submit your letter to the FCC electronic filing system at <http://fjallfoss.fcc.gov/ecfs/upload/display?z=324d9>.

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! Or contact Brandy at the Prometheus Radio Project (brandy@prometheusradio.org, 215.727.9620 x518) and we’ll help you. Get in touch if you have any questions.

With your help we can remind the FCC that communities around the country are waiting for their opportunity to build local community radio, and that a ten cap would jeopardize that chance. Thanks for helping us preserve communities’ access to the airwaves!

November [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 title]