



Urbana-Champaign Input to Obama's FCC Transition Team

From: Danielle Chynoweth, Urbana, Illinois
To: Susan Crawford and Kevin Werbach, FCC Agency Review Team
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The following policy recommendations have been gathered from many who are at the forefront of media access and policy in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. Comments were elicited from members of the Urbana-Champaign Independent Media Center, Radio Free Urbana LPFM, Champaign-Urbana Telecommunications Commission, the Broadband Access Committee, and Urbana Public Television Commission and compiled by Danielle Chynoweth, who has been a member of all of the above.

INTERNET ACCESS

- **Support a comprehensive national plan to provide universal broadband access, in coordination with local entities.**
We are plagued by a hodge-podge of plans, multi-million dollar grants, and local attempts with no national support or coordination. Massive broadband deployment towards universal access would address our country's educational lag, help jump start the economy, and be an investment that would pay dividends for decades.
- **Defend the right of municipal ownership of Internet infrastructure and provision of services.**
- **Support more and higher quality access in rural areas.**
- **Support the next generation of Community Technology Centers**

SPECTRUM REFORM

- **Add more public access to the spectrum as it becomes available.**
The public should be allocated spectrum that is freed up by conversion to digital television, shifting spectrum use by the military, and spectrum not actively or appropriately used by commercial users.
 - *Take GMRS band service and treat it like citizen's band radio, no longer requiring a license.*
- **Increase the maximum power authorization and antenna height for LPFM to 150 watts ERP and 150 feet.**
This would allow LPFM to better serve most communities by permitting a wider variety of locations for a transmitter and tower. In Urbana's particular case, if we are forced to explore a tower somewhere other than at the current location, we won't be able to continue serving a large part of our current audience.

- **Prevent encroachment on low power FM stations by full power stations.**
Currently, if a full power station wants to shift its frequency, it can insist on using a frequency near or on the LPFMs. This imposes a significant financial burden on LPFM stations, because they are forced to either shift their frequency or go off the air. LPFM stations should be treated like any other user of the FM band. If someone wants to encroach on a LPFM frequency, then they should be forced to pay the expenses of shifting the LPFM to a different frequency.
- **Open new windows to take applications for LPFM.**
There have been none since the original debut of LPFM and there are many organizations and community groups interested in using it to serve their communities.
- **Promulgate regulations on transferring LPFM licenses from one community group to another, preserving the not for profit ethos of LPFM.**
Allow for licenses to be shifted to a group better able to operate a station if the original licensee is no longer able to best serve as a licensee.

NET NEUTRALITY

- **There is near universal support of net neutrality here in our community.**
Net Neutrality should be codified, in stone if possible.

FCC PROCESS

- **Update the design, user interface, and architecture of the FCC website.**
So that users can navigate it without the need of consultants, thus improving transparency and participation.

AGENCY JURISDICTION

- **Beef up and enforce public service requirements for all commercial media.**
Give the public easy tools to monitor and file complaints about license holders who do not meet the requirements.
- **The FCC should be a stronger advocate for local government.**
 - PEG should be protected and required on first tier cable service.
 - Local telecommunications commissions are the closest to their constituents and should be given back the power to discipline telcos who do not meet their obligations and franchise terms.
- **Re-vision the FCC jurisdiction so that it can regulate air, cable, and broadband methods of delivery of similar services.**