

October 2013

TO: Federal Communications Commission
FROM: Legislators Representing Vashon Island, WA
RE: Voice of Vashon's LPFM License Application

As a group of legislators who represent the community of Vashon Island, we urge approval of the Low Power FM license application being submitted by the Voice of Vashon. This highly effective and much-loved 501c3 nonprofit organization has been serving its community for 14 years, doing the best it can through an array of alternate media channels but without the one essential ingredient of an over the air FM radio channel. An LPFM license will redouble the organization's ability to serve this underserved community.

When Congress passed the Local Community Radio Act, and the FCC conducted rulemaking to implement the LCRA, the clear objective was to provide service to underserved communities and populations. In particular, the FCC has placed a high priority on underserved communities and populations within urban areas. The LCRA and FCC rules describe a perfect fit for Vashon Island in the best spirit of the LPFM program.

- As a ferry-only island, Vashon faces isolation in the event of earthquake or other disasters, in addition to frequent and extended all-island power outages that endanger the safety, health and comfort of residents. Voice of Vashon provides crucial information during such emergencies and, in fact, serves as the public information team during activations of the island's all volunteer Emergency Operations Center. Mainland big media serving millions of people cannot focus on the emergency needs of the island's population of 11,000.
- As anyone in our region will tell you, Vashon Island hosts a vibrant and unique rural small town community culture right within sight of the region's two largest cities, Seattle and Tacoma. Voice of Vashon helps build this small town community by sharing its diversity of culture, everything from arts to agriculture to alternative medicine and lifestyles, commuters, school programs and more. Mainland media, with responsibilities to millions, largely ignores the needs of this community that lives under their high power media umbrella.

For all these reasons, we the undersigned believe an LPFM license for this community represents a highest and best use of radio spectrum in the spirit of the Local Community Radio Act and the LPFM rulemaking by the FCC. We urge the FCC to approve the Voice of Vashon LPFM application.

Sharon K. Nelson

Sharon Nelson, State Senator, 34th Legislative District

Eileen Cody

Eileen Cody, State Representative, 34th Legislative District

Joe Fitzgibbon

Joe Fitzgibbon, State Representative, 34th Legislative District

Dow Constantine

Dow Constantine, King County Executive

Joe McDermott

Joe McDermott, King County Councilmember