

July 9, 2008

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative,

The undersigned organizations ask that you co-sponsor H.R. 2802 (Doyle, D-PA and Terry R-NE), the Local Community Radio Act of 2007. This bi-partisan legislation would authorize the Federal Communications Commission to license hundreds – if not thousands – of new Low Power FM (LPFM) radio stations in cities, towns, and suburbs across the country.

LPFM stations are non-commercial radio stations that operate at 100 watts or less – with a radius of approximately 3 to 5 miles. The diverse group of undersigned organizations shares a commitment to broadcast media that serve the communities in which they are licensed.

LPFMs begin to address many of the problems with our commercial media sector today. While women make up 51 percent of the population they own just 6 percent of all radio stations. Minorities comprise one third of the population but own just 7.7 percent of all radio stations. And as more media outlets become concentrated into the hands of a few select corporations, LPFMs provide our towns and neighborhoods with a diversity of viewpoints, perspectives, voices, as well as music, arts, and culture often lacking from the commercial dial.

Congress has the power to unleash a wave of new voices on our airwaves. Consider what a radio dial with thousands of new stations – broadcasting the stories of the people living in its reach – can do. LPFMs allow churches, schools, and civic organizations to provide programming that is responsive to the needs of their towns and cities.

LPFMs have been on the air for only eight years, and already their remarkable power is apparent. These stations have been lifelines during moments of crisis – such as KOCZ-LP, Opelousas Community Zydeco Radio in Louisiana, after Hurricane Katrina. They have provided immigrant communities with programming in their native languages – such as WCTI, the station of the Coalition of Immokalee Workers, which has aided tremendously in leading successful campaigns for workers' rights in the farming fields of southern Florida. And they promote the talents of local artists and musicians – like WSCA-LP, a station licensed to Portsmouth, Maine that produces more than 25 hours per week of local arts, public affairs, and music programming.

We hope that Congress will act quickly to authorize the FCC to grant more LPFM licenses rests on Congress. We respectfully ask that you add your name as a co-sponsor on this legislation and join supporters of localism, diversity on the airwaves, and variety on the dial nationwide. Please contact the office of Congressman Doyle to add your name to H.R. 2802.

Thank you,

Alliance for Community Media	Media Mobilizing Project
American Federation of Musicians, Local 99	MetroEast Community Media
Asian American Justice Center	Mexican American Opportunity Foundation
CASA of Oregon	National Alliance for Media Arts and Culture
CCTV Center for Media and Democracy	National Association of Independent Schools
Center for Creative Voices in Media	National Catholic Educational Association
Center for Digital Democracy	National Federation of Community Broadcasters
Center for Media Justice	National Hispanic Media Coalition
Common Cause	National Organization of Women
Common Frequency	New America Foundation Wireless Future Program
Communications Workers of America	Oregon Alliance to Reform Media
Consumers Federation of America	Oregon Farm Worker Ministry
Consumers Union	Prometheus Radio Project
Florida Media Coalition	Reclaim the Media
Free Press	Rural Organizing Project
Future of Music Coalition	United Church of Christ Office of Communication, Inc.
Interfaith Action of Southwest Florida	Urbana Champaign Independent Media Center
Media Access Project	United States Conference of Catholic Bishops
Media Alliance	US Public Interest Research Group