

It is Time for Congress to Vote for Decency
February 20, 2004



Cheryl A. Leanza, Deputy Director for Media Access Project issues the following statement:

Four years ago last month, the FCC adopted a new low power radio program that uses scarce spectrum more efficiently, and puts radio spectrum into the hands of schools, churches, and community groups. Despite near universal praise for low power radio, incumbent broadcasters 'cried wolf' and successfully asked Congress to severely curtail the service in the most populated areas. They suggested, despite all credible evidence to the contrary, that low power radio stations could cause interference to existing radio stations.

Today, the FCC submitted to Congress a long-awaited technical report confirming that low power radio poses no threat whatsoever to broadcasting. This report was commissioned, at the direction of Congress, from a fully independent broadcast engineering firm. The technical data show no difficulties with low power radio.

The time has come to roll out low power radio throughout the country. For those who are worried about the content on radio and television today, the answer is to use low power radio to put broadcasting into the hands of schools and churches. Congress should vote for decency, by voting to allow the FCC to fully deploy low power radio.

National Association of Broadcaster critiques of this study reveal their technical complaints to be a façade. The NAB lobbied heavily for the bill that cut back low power radio, the NAB designed the study that the FCC procured. Any broadcaster critique of the results of today's report are evidence that the broadcasters were never interested in the scientific truth in the first place.

Links:

Media Access Project low power radio page:

<http://www.mediaaccess.org/programs/lpfm/index.html>

FCC Report:

http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-244128A1.pdf

Senator McCain statement in support of FCC Report:

<http://commerce.senate.gov/newsroom/printable.cfm?id=218240>

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