

March 22, 2007
For Immediate Release



MAP Reacts to Digital Audio Broadcasting Order (DAB)

In response to the Federal Communication Commission order issued today on Digital Audio Broadcasting (DAB), Media Access Project Assistant Director Parul Desai issued the following statement:

“The transition to digital radio, which will provide additional streams for programming and other services, presents an opportunity and platform for new and diverse voices and greater service to the public. It is unfortunate that the Commission majority refused to include even a word of official encouragement to broadcasters to voluntarily address the lack of independent programming, especially that created by women and people of color.”

“As Commissioners Copps and Adelstein warned, the Commission’s work remains unfinished. Today’s item leaves to a later date specific public interest obligations. Hopefully, the recognition of the current state of radio will guide the Commission as it resolves the proposed NPRM. While not a complete solution to the lack of diverse voices and perspectives, the Commission must seize on this opportunity to increase the participation of minorities and females in radio broadcasting. The Commission must seize upon this opportunity to ensure that the public receives truly beneficial services and programming, as the public airwaves were intended to be used. Only then will digital radio live up to its full potential.”

30/30/30

Contact: Andrew Schwartzman
President and CEO
andys@mediaaccess.org
(202) 454 - 5681

Harold Feld
Senior Vice President
hfeld@mediaaccess.org
(202) 454 - 5684