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***Low Power Radio Supporters Appeal to President Clinton
Encourage Veto of Bills with Anti-LPFM Riders***

WASHINGTON – Concerned about reports that an anti-Low Power Radio rider has been attached to the Commerce-Justice-State appropriations bill, a group of Low Power Radio supporters today encouraged President Clinton to “oppose this anti-democratic effort to overturn a lengthy public process held by an independent agency.”

The rider appears to be the Grams Bill (S. 3020), which is corresponding language to what passed the House of Representatives earlier this year. The NAB-pushed bill forces the FCC to perform additional testing before loosening 3rd adjacent channel protections between stations. This legislation also forces Congress to pass authorizing language before the FCC could loosen third adjacent protections in the future.

Text of the letter follows:

Dear Mr. President:

It has come to our attention that a rider has been attached to the Commerce-State-Justice appropriations bill that would gut the FCC's Low Power Radio initiative. We strongly urge you to oppose this anti-democratic effort to overturn a lengthy public process held by an independent agency.

There is an overwhelming demand for these non-commercial licenses, as evidenced by over 1,200 applications submitted to the FCC from the first 20 states eligible to apply. These stations are a cost-effective tool for churches, community groups, local governments and educational institutions to make effective use of what is, after all, a public resource.

Beyond the specific merits of the Low Power Radio issue, it is outrageous to think the outcome of a lengthy public process would be overturned by Congress -- on supposed "technical grounds" -- without a single hearing, debate or up-or-down vote in the Senate. This is a clear abuse of the appropriations process, and we strongly urge you to veto any bill that includes this rider.

Sincerely,

Michael Bracy, Low Power Radio Coalition
Adam Goldberg, Consumers Union
Wade Henderson, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights
Amy Ray, Indigo Girls
Emily Saliers, Indigo Girls
Andrew Schwartzman, Media Access Project----