

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 12, 2000



CONTACTS:
Cheryl Leanza
Media Access Project
202 232-4300
www.mediaaccess.org

Michael Bracy
Low Power Radio Coalition
202 661-2065

***Fight Continues for Low Power Radio
Advocates Press White House to Stand Firm***

WASHINGTON - A diverse coalition of Low Power Radio supporters thanked President Clinton today for his support of the FCC's Low Power FM radio initiative and encouraged him to continue fighting for the issue during the ongoing budget negotiations.

The Federal Communications Commission passed rules in January 2000 that paved the way for hundreds of community-based, non-commercial FM radio licenses to be made available for local governments, churches, educational institutions and community groups. To date, the FCC has received over 1,300 applications from the first 20 states eligible to apply for the stations.

Before the election, Congress passed a Commerce Justice State appropriations bill that included a rider to drastically curtail the number of noncommercial radio stations licensed by the Federal Communications Commission. In a letter to congressional leaders, President Clinton singled out LPFM as a reason he planned to veto the bill. To date, Congress has not sent the White House the bill for his signature or veto, and advocates hope the Clinton Administration will stand firm on the issue.

“As leaders of public interest, religious, and civil rights organizations, we are particularly concerned that we gain an opportunity to improve the level of media discourse by adding our voices to those already on the airwaves,” the leaders wrote. “Claims that interference will harm current broadcasts are a red herring that fly in the face of rigorous technical analysis submitted to, and conducted by, the Federal Communications Commission.”

The letter was signed by: Emily Sheketoff, American Library Association; Morton Bahr, Communications Workers of America; Keith R. Krueger, Consortium for School Networking; Sharon Maeda, The General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church; Wade Henderson, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights; Michael Bracy, Low Power Radio Coalition; Andrew Jay Schwartzman and Cheryl A. Leanza, Media Access Project; Richard Cizik, National Association of Evangelicals; David Pomeroy, National Council of Churches of Christ in the U.S.A.; Carol Pierson, National Federation of Community Broadcasters; Juan Otero, National League of Cities; Edward Mierzwinski, Public Interest Research Group; and Rev. Robert Chase, United Church of Christ, Office of Communication.
