



# NEWS

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This is an unofficial announcement of Commission action. Release of the full text of a Commission order constitutes official action. See MCI v. FCC, 515 F 2d 385 (D.C. Circ 1974).

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## **STATEMENT OF COMMISSIONER MICHAEL J. COPPS LAUDING THE SIGNING OF THE LOCAL COMMUNITY RADIO ACT**

I have been waiting for this day for a long, long time! Enactment of the Local Community Radio Act gives local radio stations, grassroots media, and consumers nationwide genuine cause to celebrate. Thanks to this legislation, more than 160 million people underserved by local power FM will be able to reap the benefits of these stations. This means potentially many new opportunities for local and independent broadcasters to provide truly local and independent programming—and to be heard.

In this day of way-too-much media consolidation, stifling program homogenization, and the decimation of local news, new voices are critically important to sustaining America's civic dialogue and citizen engagement.

It has taken real leadership to get this done. I would like especially to thank Reps. Mike Doyle (D-PA) and Lee Terry (R-NE) for sponsoring this Bill and working so effectively for its House passage. On the Senate side, Sen. Maria Cantwell (D-WA) and Sen. John McCain (R-AZ) offered bipartisan leadership on this issue. Of course the leadership of the House and Senate Commerce committees under Sen. Jay Rockefeller (D-WV) and Rep. Henry Waxman (D-CA) was also key to this successful outcome.

How fitting that, as we begin the new year, we can turn the page on years of waiting to celebrate a victory for independent media voices and consumers nationwide.

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