

House Energy and Commerce Committee Passes Local Community Radio Act

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WASHINGTON -- The House Committee on Energy and Commerce voted unanimously on Thursday to pass the Local Community Radio Act (HR 1147). The legislation, introduced by Reps. Mike Doyle (D-Penn.) and Lee Terry (R-Neb.), would open the public airwaves to hundreds of new Low Power FM radio stations in communities across the country. The bill has strong bipartisan support and more than 80 co-sponsors in the House. The bill now moves to the full House.

Craig Aaron, senior program director of Free Press, made the following statement:

"Today's vote is a major victory for radio listeners looking for local voices on the air, a testament to the power of bipartisan cooperation, and a tribute to the tireless advocacy of groups like the Prometheus Radio Project and its allies. Low Power FM stations will put community news, independent music and fresh perspectives back on the radio dial. Today's vote is the furthest this bill has gotten in the House -- and the finish line is finally in sight. We commend Chairman Waxman and Reps. Doyle and Terry for their leadership on this issue and their unwavering support for LPFM. The full Congress should move as quickly as possible to pass this important and long overdue legislation."

