

# PROMETHEUS RADIO PROJECT

PO Box 42158 Philadelphia, PA 19101 (215)727-9620  
[info@prometheusradio.org](mailto:info@prometheusradio.org), [www.prometheusradio.org](http://www.prometheusradio.org)



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Contact: Hannah Sassaman or Pete Tridish  
215.727.9620, 267.970.4007

## **FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION VINDICATES LOW POWER** Make More Room for LPFM, Engineers and Regulators tell Congress

The Federal Communications Commission released a major report today, February 20<sup>th</sup>, concerning its Low Power FM radio service. After years of waiting, the FCC is finally making its recommendation to Congress that they remove the third adjacent frequency restrictions that keep Low Power FM radio out of most American communities, especially out of our cities. This act will open the doors to dozens, if not hundreds, of new potential community radio stations in the United States, more essential than ever in a time of increasing media consolidation and decreasing access to the airwaves.

The original granting of licenses for the Low Power FM service was stopped in its tracks in December of 2000, when Congress, under the recommendations of the National Association of Broadcasters and NPR, placed an exorbitant protection standard on the FM broadcast band. Convinced by the corporations' cries of "interference", Congress passed a law keeping Low Power radio off of most of its intended frequencies, and over 60% of the potential stations were lost.

"When Congress listened to the big corporate lobbyists – who were telling them that our 100 watt radio stations would interfere with their 100,000 watt Goliaths, they were flouting decades and decades of engineering precedent," said Prometheus Radio Project technical director Pete Tridish. "Everyone in this business, including the FCC, knew that there was room for our stations on the dial. Now Congress knows it for a fact, and it's their job to pass the law allowing more LPFM stations to be built."

LPFM licenses are granted to groups that promise to broadcast non-commercial, locally-produced broadcasting that will serve their regions and towns. The Prometheus Radio Project, alongside many other national organizations, fought for the implementation of these licenses at the turn of the last century. Prometheus will work to get the groups who lost out on LPFM in 2000 back into the game, helping them apply for stations and get their voices into their communities.

"We're very glad to see that the FCC is telling Congress what we've know all along to be true," said Low Power FM broadcaster Mike Shay, of environmental action station WRYR-LP in Anne Arundel County, Maryland. "I'm going to work overtime to tell folks all over the country that now's the time to ask their Congresspeople to bring stations to their communities!"

To read the report in its entirety, download the FCC's Adobe PDF document from this site – [http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs\\_public/attachmatch/DOC-244128A1.pdf](http://hraunfoss.fcc.gov/edocs_public/attachmatch/DOC-244128A1.pdf).

The Prometheus Radio Project is an advocacy group that builds, proliferates, and works to further accessibility to Low Power FM community radio stations. They also work for the movement for a more democratic media and communications rights all over the country and all over the world. For more information about Prometheus, contact Pete Tridish at 215.727.9620, or at [petri@prometheusradio.org](mailto:petri@prometheusradio.org), or Hannah Sassaman at 267.970.4007, or [hannahjs@prometheusradio.org](mailto:hannahjs@prometheusradio.org).