

Rep. Henry A. Waxman
Chairman, Committee on Energy and Commerce
Floor Statement
H.R. 1147, the Local Community Radio Act of 2009
December 15, 2009

Madame Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1147, the Local Community Radio Act of 2009. I want to thank Chairman Boucher for his leadership in guiding this bipartisan bill through the Committee. I also want to recognize and thank Mr. Doyle and Mr. Terry – the original sponsors of the bill – for their efforts to expand diversity, localism, and competition in our media landscape. Mr. Doyle has been a tireless advocate of local community radio and I greatly appreciate his leadership, flexibility and persistence.

I am pleased that the House is taking up this important bipartisan measure, as I have long-supported expanding Low-Power FM radio services. This bill removes a statutory barrier to the creation of potentially thousands of new low power stations across the country. The creation of these stations will further the overriding national policy goals of promoting broadcast localism and diversity.

I am pleased that the bill includes strong protections against unreasonable interference for incumbent radio broadcasters, as well as a clear dispute resolution process should such interference occur. I want to thank National Public Radio for working with the Energy and Commerce Committee in a constructive manner. I also want to commend the Prometheus Radio Project, the United Church of Christ and other supporters of Low Power FM services for their valuable input.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1147. Thank you Madame Speaker and I yield back the balance of my time.