



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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NATIVE PUBLIC MEDIA TO TESTIFY AT FUTURE OF RADIO HEARING

Washington DC--Native Public Media (NPM) Advisory Council member, Geoffrey Blackwell, will testify today on behalf of Native Public Media and its parent organization, National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB), at the House Telecommunications and the Internet Subcommittee hearing on the Future of Radio.

Blackwell's testimony will focus on the importance of radio in Indian country, the need for more locally owned and controlled noncommercial radio stations, and the importance of current funding for public broadcasting and the extra help that stations serving low-income communities need.

The Future of Radio hearing is part two of the Subcommittee's hearings on the Digital Future of the United States. Chaired by Representative Edward J. Markey (D-MA), the Subcommittee will examine the radio landscape from the perspectives of commercial, non-commercial, satellite and Internet radio broadcasters. Part one, the Future of the World Wide Web, took place on March 1.

Blackwell will testify with other witnesses including: Mel Karmazin, Chief Executive Officer, Sirius Satellite Radio, Inc.; Peter H. Smyth, President and Chief Executive Officer, Greater Media, Inc.; Robert Kimball, Senior Vice President, Legal and Business Affairs, RealNetworks, Inc.; Gene Kimmelman, Vice President, Federal and International Affairs, Consumers Union.

Today's hearing is schedule for 2:30 pm, Eastern Standard Time, in room 2123 of the Rayburn House Office Building. Live video web cast of this hearing is available at <http://energycommerce.house.gov/>. A copy of Blackwell's testimony is available at NFCB's website: www.nfcb.org.

About Geoffrey Blackwell

Geoffrey C. Blackwell, Esq. is a member of Native Public Media's Advisory Council and chairs the Telecommunications Subcommittee of the National Congress of American Indians. Blackwell is also

the Director of Strategic Relations and Minority Business Development at Chickasaw Nation Industries, Inc. (CNI). Prior to joining CNI, Mr. Blackwell worked at the Federal Communications Commission, within the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs of the Consumer & Governmental Affairs Bureau, as a Senior Attorney and as the Commission's Liaison to Tribal Governments. Blackwell is an enrolled member of the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, and is also of Chickasaw, Choctaw, and Omaha descent.

About Native Public Media and
National Federation of Community Broadcasters

Native Public Media is a project of NFCB and represents the interests of 33 public radio stations serving Native Nations and communities throughout the United States. Its mission is to *promote healthy, engaged, independent Native communities by strengthening and expanding Native American media capacity and by empowering a strong, proud Native American voice.*

The National Federation of Community Broadcasters is an alliance of stations, producers and others committed to Community Radio. NFCB advocates for national public policy, funding, recognition, and resources on behalf of its membership, while providing services to empower and strengthen community broadcasters through the core values of localism, diversity and public service.

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