



April 22, 2006
Portland, Oregon, USA

Vicente Fox Quesada
Presidente Constitucional de
Los Estados Unidos Mexicanos

Dear Mr. President:

We, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters, representing over 250 member organizations working in community radio in the United States, wish to express our concern over recent changes to communications law in Mexico.

Prior to your signing the Federal Law of Radio, Television and Telecommunications, representatives of the academic, political and social sectors including members of your own government had argued that changes were needed. The bill needed to acknowledge the social role of radio broadcasting, especially in a country like Mexico which is in the midst of a process of democratization.

It is of great concern to us, who work daily in community media, to see not only the potential for greater consolidation of ownership in your law, but also the absence of provisions to protect and sustain existing citizens media, and no mechanisms for new groups to have access to the airwaves. We urge you to insure that the new regulations recognize the work of community media, guarantee its financing and conditions for continued existence, as well the means to undertake digital conversion.

We also hope that the new commission that governs the media, will be constituted and undertake its work in a fair and equitable basis. This would include giving community and public media the tools to produce and distribute their own content in order to assure a diversity of views and of the rights of all of your citizens to information and communication.

We share our concerns because we know that as neighboring countries we have a common history. This history goes beyond trade. We share a common border and recognize that we have thousands of families with roots on both sides of that border. We are certain that community media on both sides have an important role to play to benefit our peoples.

In the spirit of your stated commitment to democracy, held in common with the National Federation of Community Broadcasters of the United States, we look forward to your actions to address this situation for the benefit of an informed citizenry.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carol Pierson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Carol Pierson
President and CEO