

NGO ENDORSEMENT LETTER TO BRING *DEMOCRACY NOW!* TO MAINE PUBLIC RADIO.
PLEASE ASK YOUR GROUP OR ORGANIZATION TO SIGN ON...

Dear Mr. Beck and respected members of the MPBC Board,

We would first like to express our sincere gratitude to MPR for the quality of programming you have offered the people of Maine since your inception. Many of us now greatly rely upon you for keeping us informed and educated on issues of deep public concern. Considering that reliance and the increasingly threatening world we all face today, we are also writing to ask you to expand the scope of your endeavors. Specifically, we would like to request more diversity in the range of voices and information you offer, a diversity we now desperately require to understand our current plight and options.

Our apparently imminent war with Iraq, our increasing involvement in Columbia, the terrorist menace, our precarious economy, threats to our civil liberties, and other issues are all causes for legitimate concern and demand open intelligent debate. Against this background, we feel the need for more varied perspectives and in-depth reporting on the fateful events now occurring domestically and throughout the world.

We believe the quickest, least costly and most effective way to accomplish this would be to include the Pacifica network's Democracy Now! show in your broadcast lineup. Those who live in the Bangor and Blue Hill areas are able to enjoy DN! on WERU, but we believe the rest of Maine now also deserves and needs to hear this extraordinary program as well.

Although many journalism schools still teach that one of the profession's highest callings is "to monitor the centers of power," we find that Democracy Now! is one of the rare programs today that puts this ideal into practice. The DN! staff has won wide professional recognition for their courageous coverage and investigations, including the George Polk Award for Journalism, the Robert F. Kennedy Prize for International Reporting, the Alfred I. DuPont-Columbia Silver Baton, the Armstrong Award, and the Radio/Television News Directors Award, as well as awards from AP, UPI, and the Corporation for Public Broadcasting.

Democracy Now! not only enjoys critical acclaim, 120 stations now carry the show across the country and all agree that it has developed a broad and devoted audience. We would be proud to have MPR join that list, and sincerely believe the program will boost the network's audience, membership, and reputation in Maine civil society.

This request is submitted on behalf of a variety of religious, political, environmental, labor, educational, and peace groups from across the State, and the list of supporting individuals and organizations swiftly continues to grow.

We look forward to your positive response to this appeal and to your continued leadership in providing Maine's people with the range of news and views we so urgently need to inform ourselves, comprehend our times, and preserve our own democracy here and now.

Sincerely,

Current signatories listed on following page...

Note: For more detailed info and program archives, see the Democracy Now! website at: <http://www.democracynow.org>

CURRENT SIGNATORIES TO *DEMOCRACY NOW!* ENDORSEMENT LETTER
(as of 12/15/02 -- see www.nancho.net/dn2maine/ for weekly updates & campaign news)

Big Medicine
Brunswick Peace Works
Chewonki Foundation
CLEAN Maine
CONA (Citizens Offering New Alternatives)
Forest Ecology Network
Justice, Ecology & Democracy Center
Katahdin Center
Let Cuba Live - Maine Chapter
Maine Green Independent Party
Maine Labor News
Northern Peace & Justice Center
Pax Christi - Maine Chapter
Peace Action Maine
Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County
Veterans for Peace - Maine Chapter
Witness for Peace - Maine Chapter
Women's International League for Peace & Freedom - Maine Chapter

Maine Public Broadcasting Corporation

Program Director: Charles Beck

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Next scheduled Board meeting: Tuesday, March 18, 2003 – Bangor