between the local educational agency and the institution of higher education participating in the Teachers Institute;

- "(4) to provide suitable office space, staff, equipment, and supplies, and to pay other operating expenses, for the Teachers Institute:
- "(5) to provide a stipend for teachers participating in collaborative seminars in the sciences and humanities, and to provide remuneration for those members of the faculty of the institution of higher education participating in the Teachers Institute who lead the seminars; and

"(6) to provide for the dissemination through print and electronic means of curriculum units prepared in the seminars conducted by the Teachers Institute.

"(b) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary may use not more than 50 percent of the funds appropriated to carry out this part to provide technical assistance to facilitate the establishment and operation of Teachers Institutes. For the purpose of this subsection, the Secretary may contract with existing Teachers Institutes to provide all or a part of the technical assistance under this subsection.

"SEC. 246. APPLICATION, APPROVAL, AND AGREEMENT.

- "(a) IN GENERAL.—To receive a grant under this part, a Teachers Institute shall submit an application to the Secretary that—
- "(1) meets the requirement of this part and any regulations under this part;
- "(2) includes a description of how the Teachers Institute intends to use funds provided under the grant;
- "(3) includes such information as the Secretary may require to apply the criteria described in section 244(b);
- "(4) includes measurable objectives for the use of the funds provided under the grant; and
- "(5) contains such other information and assurances as the Secretary may require.
- "(b) APPROVAL.—The Secretary shall—"(1) promptly evaluate an application re-
- "(1) promptly evaluate an application received for a grant under this part; and
- "(2) notify the applicant within 90 days of the receipt of a completed application of the Secretary's approval or disapproval of the application.
- "(c) AGREEMENT.—Upon approval of an application, the Secretary and the Teachers Institute shall enter into a comprehensive agreement covering the entire period of the grant

"SEC. 247. REPORTS AND EVALUATIONS.

- "(a) REPORT.—Each Teachers Institute receiving a grant under this part shall report annually on the progress of the Teachers Institute in achieving the purpose of this part and the purposes of the grant.
 - "(b) EVALUATION AND DISSEMINATION.-
- "(1) EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall evaluate the activities funded under this part and submit an annual report regarding the activities to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate and the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives.
- "(2) DISSEMINATION.—The Secretary shall broadly disseminate successful practices developed by Teachers Institutes.
- "(c) REVOCATION.—If the Secretary determines that a Teachers Institute is not making substantial progress in achieving the purpose of this part and the purposes of the grant by the end of the second year of the grant under this part, the Secretary may take appropriate action, including revocation of further payments under the grant, to ensure that the funds available under this part are used in the most effective manner. "SEC. 248. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

"There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part—

- "(1) \$4,000,000 for fiscal year 2005:
- "(2) \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;
- "(3) \$6,000,000 for fiscal year 2007;
- "(4) \$7,000,000 for fiscal year 2008; and
- ((5) \$8,000,000 for fiscal year 2009.)

By Mr. CAMPBELL (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. SMITH):

S. 2539. A bill to amend the Tribally Controlled Colleges or University Assistance Act and the Higher Education Act to improve Tribal Colleges and Universities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. CAMPBELL. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce legislation to update and improve the Tribally Controlled Colleges or University Assistance Act and amend the Indian sections of the Higher Education Act.

Indian tribal colleges were first created about 30 years ago in response to the higher education needs of Native populations living in remote and isolated areas of the country where access to higher education is extremely difficult.

There are 33 tribally- or Federally-chartered Indian colleges in the Nation and they do a superb job despite the many obstacles they face.

In recent years the cost of higher education has far exceeded the rate of inflation. Tribal colleges face other problems as well: a growing population and growing demand for services; increased demand for additional facilities; geographical isolation; and difficulty attracting quality professors to teach.

Tribal colleges not only provide a quality higher education but also enhance the cultural knowledge, knowledge depositories, college preparatory work, and other important educational needs of Indian communities.

Tribal colleges also enhance the economies of tribes. The national unemployment rate in the U.S. today is about 5.6 percent, while the rate for Native Americans is many times that and in some parts of Indian country hovers above 50 percent.

Tribal colleges serve as centers for business incubation and small business development in order to encourage private business development and job creation

Tribal colleges are also being called on to help Indian communities in the often-difficult transition from welfare to work. These institutions also provide education and training to people ready to join the workforce.

To continue the vital work of these colleges, the bill I am introducing will provide additional resources and means to develop facilities, increase quality faculty and improve the overall education of Indian people within their reservations.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important bill.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 2539

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled.

TITLE I—TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

SEC. 101. TRIBALLY CONTROLLED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY ACT OF 1978.

- (a) FORMULA.—Section 108(a)(2) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1808) is amended by striking "\$6,000" and inserting "\$8,000".
- (b) TITLE I REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 110(a) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1810(a)) is amended—
- (1) in paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4), by striking "1999" and inserting "2004";
- (2) in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3), by striking "4 succeeding" and inserting "5 succeeding";
- (3) in paragraph (2), by striking "\$40,000,000" and inserting "\$55,000,000";
- (4) in paragraph (3), by striking "\$10,000,000" and inserting "\$20,000,000"; and
- (5) in paragraph (4), by striking "succeeding 4" and inserting "5 succeeding".
- (c) TITLE III REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 306(a) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1836(a)) is amended—
- (1) by striking "1999" and inserting "2004"; and
- (2) by striking "4 succeeding" and inserting "5 succeeding".
- (d) TITLE IV REAUTHORIZATION.—Section 403 of the Tribal Economic Development and Technology Related Education Assistance Act of 1990 (25 U.S.C. 1852) is amended—
- (1) by striking "\$2,000,000 for fiscal year 1999" and inserting "\$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2004"; and
- (2) by striking "4 succeeding" and inserting "5 succeeding".
- (e) CLARIFICATION OF THE DEFINITION OF NATIONAL INDIAN ORGANIZATION.—Section 2(a)(6) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801(a)(6)) is amended by striking "in the field of Indian education" and inserting "in the field of Tribal Colleges and Universities and Indian higher education".
- (f) INDIAN STUDENT COUNT.—Section 2(a) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 1801(a)) is amended—
- (1) by redesignating paragraphs (7) and (8) as paragraphs (8) and (9), respectively; and
- (2) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:
- "(7) 'Indian student' means a person who is—
- "(A) a member of an Indian tribe; or
- "(B) a biological child of a member of an Indian tribe, living or deceased;".
- (g) CONTINUING EDUCATION.—Section 2(b) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 1801(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:
- ''(5) DETERMINATION OF CREDITS.—Eligible credits earned in a continuing education program—
- "(A) shall be determined as 1 credit for every 10 contact hours in the case of an institution on a quarter system, or 15 contact hours in the case of an institution on a semester system, of participation in an organized continuing education experience under responsible sponsorship, capable direction, and qualified instruction, as described in the criteria established by the International Association for Continuing Education and Training; and
- "(B) shall be limited to 10 percent of the Indian student count of a tribally controlled college or university.".

- (h) ACCREDITATION REQUIREMENT.—Section 103 of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 1804) is amended—
- (1) in paragraph (2), by striking "and" at the end;
- (2) in paragraph (3), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; and"; and
- (3) by inserting after paragraph (3), the following:
- "(4)(A) is accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency or association determined by the Secretary of Education to be a reliable authority with regard to the quality of training offered; or
- "(B) is, according to such an agency or association, making reasonable progress toward accreditation.".
- (i) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE CONTRACT AWARDS.—Section 105 of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 1805) is amended in the second sentence by striking "In the awarding of contracts for technical assistance, preference shall be given" and inserting "The Secretary shall direct that contracts for technical assistance be awarded".

SEC. 102. TITLE III GRANTS FOR AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBALLY CONTROLLED COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.

- (a) DEFINITION OF TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—Section 316(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:
 - "(3) TRIBAL COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.—
- "(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'Tribal College or University' means an institution that meets the definition of tribally controlled college or university in section 2 of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801).
- (B) INCLUSIONS.—The term 'Tribal College or University' includes Bay Mills Community College; Blackfeet Community College; Cankdeska Cikana Community College: Chief Dull Knife College; College of Menominee Nation; Crownpoint Institute of Technology; Dine College; D-Q University; Fond Du Lac Tribal and Community College; Fort Belknap College; Fort Berthold Community College; Fort Peck Community College; Haskell Indian Nations University; Institute of American Indian and Alaska Native Culture and Arts Development; Lac Courte Oreilles Ojibwa Community College; Leech Lake Tribal College; Little Big Horn College; Little Priest Tribal College; Nebraska Indian Community College; Northwest Indian College; Oglala Lakota College; Saginaw Chippewa Tribal College; Salish Kootenai College; Si Tanka University-Eagle Butte Cam-Sinte Gleska University; Wahpeton Community College; Sitting Bull College; Southwestern Indian Polytechnic Institute; Stone Child College; Tohono O'odham Community College; Turtle Mountain Community College; United Tribes Technical College; and White Earth Tribal and Community College.".
- (b) DISTANCE LEARNING.—Section 316(c)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(c)(2)) is amended—
- (1) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "and the acquisition of real property adjacent to the campus of the institution on which to construct such facilities":
- (2) in subparagraph (K), by striking "and" at the end
- (3) by redesignating subparagraph (L) as subparagraph (M); and
- (4) by inserting after subparagraph (K) the following:
- "(L) developing or improving facilities for Internet use or other distance learning academic instruction capabilities; and".
- (c) APPLICATION, PLAN, AND ALLOCATION.— Section 316 of the Higher Education Act of

- 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c) is amended by striking subsection (d) and inserting the following:
- "(d) APPLICATION, PLAN, AND ALLOCATION.—
 "(1) INSTITUTIONAL ELIGIBILITY.—To be eli-
- gible to receive assistance under this section, a Tribal College or University shall be an eligible institution under section 312(b).
- "(2) Application.—
- "(A) IN GENERAL.—A Tribal College or University desiring to receive assistance under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, and in such manner, as the Secretary may reasonably require.
- "(B) STREAMLINED PROCESS.—The Secretary shall establish application requirements in such a manner as to simplify and streamline the process for applying for grants.
 - "(3) Allocations to institutions.—
 - (A) Construction grants.-
- "(i) IN GENERAL.—Of the amount appropriated to carry out this section for any fiscal year, the Secretary shall reserve 30 percent for the purpose of awarding 1-year grants of not less than \$1,000,000 to address construction, maintenance, and renovation needs at eligible institutions.
- "(ii) PREFERENCE.—In providing grants under clause (i), the Secretary shall give preference to eligible institutions that have not yet received an award under this section. "(B) ALLOTMENT OF REMAINING FUNDS.—
- "(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), the Secretary shall distribute the remaining funds appropriated for any fiscal year to each eligible institution as follows:
- "(I) 60 percent of the remaining appropriated funds shall be distributed among the eligible Tribal Colleges and Universities pro rata basis, based on the respective Indian student counts (as defined in section 2(a) of the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801(a)) of the Tribal Colleges and Universities; and
- "(II) the remaining 40 percent shall be distributed in equal shares to eligible Tribal Colleges and Universities.
- "(ii) MINIMUM GRANT.—The amount distributed to a Tribal College or University under clause (i) shall not be less than \$500.000.
- "(4) SPECIAL RULES.—
- "(A) CONCURRENT FUNDING.—For the purposes of this part, no Tribal College or University that is eligible for and receives funds under this section shall concurrently receive funds under other provisions of this part or part B.
- "(B) EXEMPTION.—Section 313(d) shall not apply to institutions that are eligible to receive funds under this section.".

SEC. 103. LOAN REPAYMENT OR CANCELLATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO TEACH IN TRIBAL COLLEGES OR UNIVERSITIES.

- (a) Perkins Loans.—
- (1) AMENDMENT.—Section 465(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ee(a)) is amended—
 - (A) in paragraph (2)—
- (i) in subparagraph (H), by striking "or" at the end;
- (ii) in subparagraph (I), by striking the period at the end and inserting "; or"; and
- (iii) by adding at the end the following:
- "(J) as a full-time teacher at a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b))."; and
- (B) in paragraph (3)(A)(i), by striking "or (I)" and inserting "(I), or (J)".
- (2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by paragraph (1) shall be effective for service performed during academic year 1998—1999 and succeeding academic years, notwithstanding any contrary provision of the promissory note under which a loan under part E of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087aa et seq.) was made.

(b) FFEL AND DIRECT LOANS.—Part G of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1088 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 493. LOAN REPAYMENT OR CANCELLATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO TEACH IN TRIBAL COLLEGES OR UNIVER-SITIES.

- "(a) DEFINITION OF YEAR.—In this section, the term 'year', as applied to employment as a teacher, means an academic year (as defined by the Secretary).
 "(b) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall carry
- "(b) PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall carry out a program, through the holder of a loan, of assuming or canceling the obligation to repay a qualified loan amount, in accordance with subsection (c), for any new borrower on or after the date of enactment of this section, who—
- "(1) has been employed as a full-time teacher at a Tribal College or University (as defined in section 316(b)); and
- "(2) is not in default on a loan for which the borrower seeks repayment or cancella-
 - "(c) QUALIFIED LOAN AMOUNTS.—
- "(1) PERCENTAGES.—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary shall assume or cancel the obligation to repay under this section—
- "(A) 15 percent of the amount of all loans made, insured, or guaranteed after the date of enactment of this section to a student under part B or D, for the first or second year of employment described in subsection (b)(1):
- "(B) 20 percent of such total amount, for the third or fourth year of such employment; and
- "(C) 30 percent of such total amount, for the fifth year of such employment.
- "(2) MAXIMUM.—The Secretary shall not repay or cancel under this section more than \$15,000 in the aggregate of loans made, insured, or guaranteed under parts B and D for any student.
- A loan amount for a loan made under section 428C may be a qualified loan amount for the purposes of this subsection only to the extent that the loan amount was used to repay a loan made, insured, or guaranteed under part B or D for a borrower who meets the requirements of subsection (b), as determined in accordance with regulations promulgated by the Secretary.
- "(d) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary may promulgate such regulations as are necessary to carry out this section.
- "(e) EFFECT OF SECTION.—Nothing in this section authorizes any refunding of any repayment of a loan.
- "(f) PREVENTION OF DOUBLE BENEFITS.—No borrower may, for the same service, receive a benefit under both this section and subtitle D of title I of the National and Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12571 et seq.)."
- (c) AMOUNTS FORGIVEN NOT TREATED AS GROSS INCOME.—Rules similar to the rules under section 108(f) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall apply to the amount of any loan that is assumed or canceled under this section.

TITLE II—NAVAJO HIGHER EDUCATION SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Navajo Nation Higher Education Act of 2004". SEC. 202. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

- (1) the Treaty of 1868 between the United States of America and the Navajo Tribe of Indians (15 Stat. 667) provides for the education of the citizens of the Navajo Nation;
- (2) in 1998, the Navajo Nation created and chartered the Navajo Community College by Resolution CN-95-68 as a wholly owned educational entity of the Navajo Nation;
- (3) in 1971, Congress enacted the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640a et seq.);

- (4) in 1997, the Navajo Nation officially changed the name of the Navajo Community College to Dinè College by Resolution CAP-35-97;
- (5) the purpose of Dinè College is to provide educational opportunities to the Navajo people and others in areas important to the economic and social development of the Navajo Nation:
- (6) the mission of Dinè College is to apply the principles of Sa'ah Naaghì Bik'eh Hòzhòòn (Dinè Philosophy) to advance student learning through training of the mind and heart-
- (A) through Nitshkees (Thinking), Nahat (Planning), Iin (Living), and Sihasin (Assurance):
- (B) in study of the Dinè language, history, philosophy, and culture:
- (C) in preparation for further studies and employment in a multicultural and technological world; and
- (D) in fostering social responsibility, community service, and scholarly research that contribute to the social, economic, and cultural well-being of the Navajo Nation;
- (7) the United States has a trust and treaty responsibility to the Navajo Nation to provide for the educational opportunities for Navajo people;
- (8) significant portions of the infrastructure of the College are dilapidated and pose a serious health and safety risk to students, employees and the public; and
 - (9) the purposes and intent of this Act-
 - (A) are consistent with-
- (i) Executive Order 13270 (3 C.F.R. 242 (2002); relating to tribal colleges and universities)); and
- (ii) Executive Order 13336 (69 Fed. Reg. 25295; relating to American Indian and Alaska Native education), issued on April 30, 2004: and
- (B) fulfill the responsibility of the United States to serve the education needs of the Navajo people.

SEC. 203. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

- (1) COLLEGE.—The term "College" means Dinè College.
- (2) Costs of operation and mainte-NANCE.—The term "operation and maintenance" means all costs and expenses associated with the customary daily operation of the College and necessary maintenance costs.
- (3) Infrastructure.—
- (A) IN GENERAL.—The term "infrastrucmeans College buildings, water and sewer facilities, roads, foundation, information technology, and telecommunications.
- (B) Inclusions.—The term "infrastructure" includes-
 - (i) classrooms; and
- (ii) external structures, such as walkways.
- (4) NATION.—The term "Nation" means the Navajo Nation.
- (5) Renovations and repairs.—The term "renovations and repairs" means modernization and improvements to the infrastructure.
- (6) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 204. REAUTHORIZATION OF DINÈ COLLEGE.

Congress authorizes the College to receive all Federal funding and resources under this Act and other laws for the operation, improvement, and growth of the College, in-

- (1) provision of programs of higher education for citizens of the Nation and others;
- (2) provision of vocational and technical education for citizens of the Nation and others:
- (3) preservation and protection of the Navajo language, philosophy, and culture for citizens of the Nation and others;

- (4) provision of employment and training opportunities to Navajo communities and
- (5) provision of economic development and community outreach for Navajo communities and people; and
- (6) provision of a safe learning, working, and living environment for students, employees, and the public.

SEC. 205. FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS.

The College may expend money received under section 209(c) to undertake all renovations and repairs to the infrastructure of the College, as identified by a strategic plan approved by the College and submitted to the Secretary.

SEC. 206. STATUS OF FUNDS.

Funds provided to the College under this title may be treated as non-Federal, private funds of the College for purposes of any provision of Federal law that requires that non-Federal or private funds of the College be used in a project for a specific purpose.

SEC. 207. SURVEY, STUDY, AND REPORT.

- (a) REPORT —The Secretary shall—
- (1) conduct a detailed study of all capital projects and facility needs of the College; and
- (2) submit to Congress a report that —
- (A) describes the results of the study not later than October 31, 2009; and
- (B) includes detailed recommendations of the Secretary and any recommendations or views submitted by the College and the Nation.
- (b) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Funds to carry out this section may be drawn from general administrative appropriations to the Secretary.

SEC. 208. CONTINUING ELIGIBILITY FOR OTHER FEDERAL FUNDS.

Except as explicitly provided for in other Federal law, nothing in this Act precludes the eligibility of the College to received Federal funding and resources under any program authorized under-

- (1) the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.); and
- (2) the Equity in Educational Land Grant Status Act (Title V, Part C, of Public Law 103-382; 7 U.S.C. 301 note); or
- (3) any other applicable program for the benefit of institutions of higher education, community colleges, or postsecondary educational institutions.

SEC. 209. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

- (a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated for each fiscal year such amounts as are necessary to pay the costs of operation and maintenance.
- (b) BUDGET PLACEMENT.—The Secretary shall fund the costs of operation and maintenance of the College separately from tribal colleges and universities recognized and funded by the Tribally Controlled College or University Assistance Act of 1978 (25 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).
- (c) FACILITIES AND CAPITAL PROJECTS.—
- (1) IN GENERAL.—In addition to amounts made available under subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 205 \$15,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2005 through 2009.
- (2) AGENCIES.—Amounts made available under paragraph (1) may be funded through any 1 or more of-
 - (A) the Department of the Interior;
- (B) the Department of Education;
- (C) the Department of Heath and Human Services:
- (D) the Department of Housing and Urban Development;
- (E) the Department of Commerce;
- (F) the Environmental Protection Agency;
- (G) the Department of Veterans Affairs;
- (H) the Department of Agriculture; (I) the Department of Homeland Security;

- (J) the Department of Defense; (K) the Department of Labor; and
- (L) the Department of Transportation.

SEC. 210. REPEAL OF NAVAJO COMMUNITY COL-LEGE ACT.

This Act supersedes the Navajo Community College Act (25 U.S.C. 640a et seq.).

By Ms. CANTWELL:

S. 2540. A bill to protect educational FM radio stations providing public service broadcasting from commercial encroachment; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I stand today to offer a bill to protect educational radio stations.

Broadcaster Linda Ellerbee has compared radio to a national campfire: a place where a variety of voices bring us stories, news, opinion, culture and entertainment. But it seems these days that those representing the biggest business interests have the best seats at that campfire.

Current regulations allow commercial broadcasters to move into the spaces of some, lower-powered educational stations.

Last year the FCC ordered an educational station at a high school in Pennsylvania to be closed because a commercial broadcaster wanted to move into that space. That high school station had been serving the students and the community in Havertown, PA for fifty years. But no more. The high school station's voice was silenced. And that same FCC order also closed a radio station operated by a school district in Princeton, NJ. Both stations lost their licenses so a commercial broadcaster could get a frequency closer to the very profitable radio market in Philadelphia.

In my State of Washington, a high school station that has served a Seattle community for 35 years is now threatened with closure. That's because a commercial broadcaster located in another State wants to relocate to a larger city to increase its profits at the expense of the students of Mercer Island High School and the community the station serves. And in this case, the school's station also serves an important tool in the lives of those working in the local music community. The station focuses on introducing new and local bands to the airways. These artists are frequently later picked up for airplay by other radio stations. Few stations across the U.S. perform this role in the music industry. No other station serves this role so well in the Seattle music community.

If the FCC allows this move, it could be worth millions to the commercial broadcasters. But what is the cost to the local community when this voice is silenced? What is the educational cost to the students at this high school? What benefits and experiences will they be losing in the future?

This is a classic example of commercial interests trumping the public service interest in preserving local educational broadcasters. These small public service stations usually don't have