

Washington, DC — Congressman Earl Blumenauer (D-Ore.) today congratulated National Public Radio (NPR) on the receipt of a \$200 million bequest from the estate of philanthropist Joan B. Kroc, saying the magnitude of the donation reflected the critical importance of public radio in the United States.

“This gift will help to secure NPR’s future as a trusted and independent source of news, information and ideas for millions of listeners,” said Blumenauer (D-Ore.), Chair of the Congressional Public Broadcasting Caucus. “It also underscores the continuing importance of Congressional support for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) and the Department of Commerce’s Public Telecommunications and Facilities Program (PTFP), which serve as the financial lifelines to local public radio stations.”

Blumenauer also stated that supporters of public radio must understand that the bequest does not replace the need for strong local support. “Certainly, this gift is enormously helpful in ensuring that NPR accomplishes its mission of public service,” he said. “However, NPR and public radio stations still face the daily challenges of funding a major national and international news organization. Mrs. Kroc’s gift does not go to public radio stations, all of which are locally licensed, operated and supported by listeners, local businesses and others in the communities they serve.”

Most of Mrs. Kroc’s gift will become part of the NPR Endowment for Excellence, which was created in 1993 to provide a sustaining source of support for NPR activities that is independent of other revenue sources. This money is a long-term bequest, which is to be saved, not spent. She also left a \$5 million bequest for KPBS, the public radio and public television station in her home town of San Diego.

Blumenauer founded the Public Broadcasting Caucus in 2001 to give voice to the many members of Congress concerned about the future of public broadcasting in the United States. One of its core principles is to support a strong and financially sound noncommercial, universal, educational broadcasting service for the American people. The Caucus today has 100 members.

“An important defining aspect of public radio today is partnership,” said Blumenauer. “Partnerships between local stations working with national broadcasters to create this remarkable service, and partnerships between Members of the House and Senate who can identify and provide federal financial assistance to help stations located in every congressional district in America. Those stations rely on our support to remain on the air.”

Blumenauer Applauds \$200 Million Request To NPR

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