

Resolution to Save WBAI and Pacifica

Whereas WBAI radio and the other four Pacifica stations and hundreds of affiliates have been serving oppressed communities, promoting social struggles against war, racism, economic inequality, and injustice along with numerous vital social causes for over 60 years,

Whereas WBAI, like the other radio stations of Pacifica, is a non-commercial station that relies on listener contributions as a 501c3 non-profit,

Whereas in the wake of the 9/11 attacks destroying the World Trade Center, the Empire State Building (ESB) owners used the shortage of available transmitter sites to offer take-it-or-leave-it contract renewal terms four times the current market rate, with onerous escalation clauses, resulting in monthly rent costs double what they were in 2005,

Whereas the ESB owners receive hundreds of millions of dollars in tax breaks from the state and city governments, but *offered no affordable rate for a non-profit such as ours*,

Whereas, over the past three years, the ESB owners had previously negotiated with WBAI to pay the current market rate, with no hint of retaliation, yet now suddenly declare that WBAI must pay all the back rental charges and fees amounting to over \$2.3 million, and

Whereas, such arbitrary judgments may cripple WBAI and Pacifica and silence these vital voices from the airwaves at a time when these voices are never more important.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that we support the call for the current owners of the ESB, Empire State Realty Trust, to immediately

Enter into meaningful negotiations with Pacifica/WBAI whereby the debt beyond the current market rate is discharged and the interest and late fees from the last three years--during which time Pacifica/WBAI was paying market rate--are waived, and

Release Pacifica from this onerous lease, which is set to run until 2020.

Signed _____

Date: _____

if you have questions or want further information, WBAI, please e-mail us at wbai.pacifica@gmail.com, or call 347-647-9224 (347-647-WBAI).