February 5, 2014

Dear President Molina,

As a member of the United States Congress, I encourage you to consider the positive effects that would result from the passage of ***Bill 4087: Community Media Law***, which intends to legalize community radio. Community radio stations serve the vital function of distributing information about rights, important news and educational programing to listeners in their own language and cultural approach, and reaches even the poorest areas that find radio to be the only affordable form of communication.

A comparable bill passed in 2009 in Argentina has allowed Indigenous Peoples to gain access to radio frequencies and has fostered participation the participation of the nation as a whole, as well as that of communities and Indigenous groups. Similar community cohesion, political participation, and self-sufficiency among Indigenous groups could be a reality in Guatemala with the passage of ***Bill 4087.***

Simultaneously, the rights of Indigenous Peoples are threatened by the consideration of ***Bill 4479***, seeking to criminalize community radio and making it punishable by imprisonment. This bill would infringe on their right to free speech and censor dissemination of information about their rights as Indigenous Peoples, while violating the inalienable human rights supported by the United Nations and similar entities.

**We therefore urge you to support the passage of *Bill 4087: Community Media Law* and oppose *Bill 4479*, giving the citizens of Guatemala access to this essential form of media.**

Sincerely,